

Town of Palmer

Bondsville, Depot Village, Thorndike & Three Rivers



fiscal Year 2015

Annual Report



July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015



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FACTS ABOUT PALMER

SETTLED	1716
INCORPORATED AS A DISTRICT	1752
ACCEPTED AS A TOWN	1776
LOCATION	About 15 miles east of Springfield on Rte 20
HIGHEST ELEVATION	Colonel's Mountain 1179 feet
POPULATION	11,476
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	7-Member Town Council Town Manager
TAX RATE – FY2015	
TOWN	\$19.33 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
FIRE DISTRICT TAX	
DISTRICT #1	\$1.30 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #2	\$2.02 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #3	\$2.11 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #4	\$2.30 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	Approximately 4,330
PROPERTY VALUATION	\$884,864,559.00
AREA	Approximately Land 20,110.00 acres; Water 457.5 acres; Total 20,568.4 acres; Square Miles: 32.14
HOSPITAL	Wing Memorial Hospital
STREETS AND HIGHWAYS	Approximately 150 miles
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Palmer High School Converse Middle School Old Mill Pond Elementary Pathfinder Regional Technical High School
FIRE PROTECTION	Four Fire Districts: Palmer Fire District 1: Chief Alan Roy heads a 32-member call force with a full time Captain and Lieutenant; Three Rivers Fire District 2: Chief Scott Turner heads a 34-member call force;

Bondsville Fire District 3: Chief Scott Gustafson heads a 26-member call force;

Thorndike Fire and Water District 4 is protected by Palmer Fire District 1.

TRANSPORTATION

PVTA Village Bus, Peter Pan Bus (Walnut Street, Palmer), Council on Aging Van for transportation for seniors.

POLICE

Well established full-time police department and Emergency Dispatch center headed by Chief of Police, Robert Frydryk

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Walter (Beebe) Chase Memorial Park, Legion Field, Eager Playground, Palmer, Nick Laviolette Park, Three Rivers, plus playground and recreational equipment at Three Rivers Common, and Endelson Playground, Bondsville.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

1455 North Main Street, Palmer

**GOVERNMENTAL DISTRICT
AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE
TOWN OF PALMER**

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Elizabeth Warren, Democrat
Edward Markey, Democrat

**REPRESENTATIVE IN U.S.
CONGRESS**

First Congressional District
Richard E. Neal

Second Congressional District
James P. McGovern

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Seventh Councilor District
Jennie Caissie

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Worcester, Hampden, Franklin
and
Hampshire Senatorial District
Anne Gobi

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL
COURT**

First Hampden Representative District
Todd M. Smola

**HAMPDEN COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY**

Anthony D. Gulluni

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF APPEALS

Antonio Andre, Chairman
Russell Brown
Norman Z. Czech
Dennis Fountain

Ingrid Thompson
Gary Doane, Alt.
Walter Solzak, Alt.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Lawrence M. Jasak
Michael J. Burns
Linda Leblanc

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Susan Coache
Chester Topper
Rose Tyburski
Margaret Higgins

BOARD OF HEALTH

Paul Benard, Chairman
John Lukaskiewicz
Jayne Heede
Josh Mathieu, Health Agent

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tharyn Nein-Large, Chairman
Donald R. Duffy
Peter Izyk
Sarah Brodeur
Sean O'Donnell
Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent

COUNCIL ON AGING

Genevieve Bates
Ernie Charland
Linda Lamay
Mary Hubert
Peggy Corriveau
Betty Koss
Gloria Brouillette
Ruth Manning
Debbie Nathanson
Cathy Plouffe

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING
COMMITTEE

Alan Roy – Palmer Fire-Rescue/LEPC
Chairman
Andrew Golas – Town Manager's Office
Charlann Griswold – Media Representative
Rudy Pisarczyk – Dept. of Public Works
David Clark – Palmer Ambulance Service
Donald Elliot – Emergency Manager
Dave Majka – Palmer Water Department
Gerry Skowronek – Waste Water Dept.
Open– Three Rivers Water Dept.
Kathy Piechota – Wing Memorial Hospital
Open – Transportation Representative

Open – Citizens Representative
Angela Panaccione – Conservation
Commission

Paul Benard – Board of Health
John Janulewicz – Palmer Police
Department

Ronald Krystofik – UMass Wing Memorial
Hospital

Scott Gustafson – Bondsville Fire
Department

Scott Turner – Three Rivers Fire
Department

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

Alice Davey, Community Development
Director
Linda Leduc, Economic Development
Director
Linda Leblanc, Assessor
John Kuzmiski, Accountant
Charles Blanchard, Town Manager

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Eric Raymond, Chairman
Marion P. Lis, Treasurer
Stephen Nowak
Robert Ring

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Richard L. Fitzgerald, Chairman
Robert Frydryk
Jason Polonsky
Theodore Simard
Michael Magiera

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION
COMMITTEE

Angela Panaccione
Linda Leduc
Michael Marciniac
Alice Davey
David Cotter
Bonnie Weeks
Donald Blais, Jr
Jim Ostrout
Tharyn Nein-Large
Sean O'Donnell

PALMER CULTURAL COUNCIL

Christine Miarecki
Eileen Benoit
Mary Bernat
Ann Wright

PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Ronald W. Lemanski, Chairperson
Mildred Jasak
Margaret Higgins

Russell Webb
Victoria Miner

PALMER REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

Dan Slowick, Chairman
Joseph Turek
Albert Lasota
(Vacant – State Appointee)

TOWN COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

APPOINTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Barbara Barry
Phil Hebert
Jason Polonsky

TOWN MANAGER GOALS
COMMITTEE

Donald Blais
Jason Polonsky
Mary Salzmann

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Donald Blais
Matthew Lovell
Robert Lavoie

TOWN COUNCIL RULES REVIEW
COMMITTEE

Barbara Barry
Jason Polonsky
Mary Salzmann

TOWN MANAGER PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION UPDATE COMMITTEE

Barbara Barry
Matthew Lovell
Phil Hebert

SCHOOL COMMITTEE LIASON

Barbara Barry

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LIASON

Phil Hebert

GREEN COMMUNITIES COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Salzmann

PVTA ADVISORY BOARD

Paul Burns

ELECTED OFFICIALS

COUNCILLORS AT LARGE

Robert Lavoie (Exp. 2017)
Mary Salzmann (Exp. 2016)
Jason Polonsky (Exp. 2015)

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Philip J. Hebert, District #1 (Exp. 2017)
Barbara A. Barry, District #2 (Exp. 2015)
Matthew Lovell, District #3 (Exp. 2015)
Donald Blais, Jr., District #4 (Exp. 2016)

PLANNING BOARD (4 YRS)

Michael Marciniak (Exp 2016)
Andrew Golas (Exp. 2016)
Norman Czech (Exp. 2015)
Kathleen Burns (Exp. 2017)
Thomas Skowrya (Exp. 2017)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (4 yrs.)

Gary A. Blanchette (Exp. 2015)
Andrea Mastalerz (Exp. 2016)
Lisa Murray (Exp. 2016)
David Lynch (Exp. 2017)
James Lynch (Exp. 2017)

**PATHFINDER REGIONAL SCHOOL
COMMITTEE**

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Exp. 2017)
David M. Droz (Exp. 2016)

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Town Manager	Charles T. Blanchard
Director of Municipal Finance/Town Accountant	John Kuzmiski
Economic Development Director/Town Planner	Linda Leduc
Town Clerk	Susan Coache
Community Development Director	Alice Davey
Veteran's Agent/Burial Agent/Graves Officer	Deborah Shilaikis
Town Counsel	Charles Ksieniewicz
Building Inspector	Bonnie Weeks
Gas Inspector	Gary Stahelski
Electrical Inspector	Gerald Weston
Plumbing Inspector	Gerald Nichols
Forest Warden	Alan Roy
Animal Inspector/Dog Officer	Wendy LaSage
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Joseph Serrato
Director of Public Safety	John Janulewicz
Treasurer	Linda St. Onge
Tax Collector	Carolyn Baldyga
Emergency Management Director	Donald C. Elliott, Jr.
Town Assessor	Linda Leblanc
Acting Department of Public Works Director	Rudy Pisarczyk
WWTP Superintendent	Gerald Skowronek
Council on Aging Director	Erin Pincince
Hampden County Housing Services Advisory Committee	Jean Leonard
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Michael Marciniac,
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm. Policy Advisory Rep.	Vacant
P.V.T.A. Advisory Council Member	Paul Burns
Environmental Certifying Office Hearings Officer/Building Code Violations	Bonnie Weeks

ELECTIONS

Preliminary State Election – September 9, 2014

DEMOCRAT

Senator in Congress	Edward J. Markey	588
Governor	Donald Berwick	168
	Martha Coakley	329
	Steven Grossman	304
Lt. Governor	Leland Cheung	115
	Stephen Kerrigan	404
	Michael Lake	141
Attorney General	Maura Healey	483
	Warren Tolman	308
Secretary of State	William Galvin	619
Treasurer	Thomas Conroy	203
	Barry Finegold	155
	Deborah Goldberg	354
Auditor	Suzanne Bump	556

REPUBLICAN

Senator in Congress	Brian Herr	335
Governor	Charlie Baker	290
	Mark Fisher	177
Lt. Governor	Karyn Polito	354
Attorney General	John Miller	331
Secretary of State	David D’Arcangelo	321
Treasurer	Michael James Heffernan	316
Auditor	Patricia Saint Aubin	316

State General Election - November 4, 2014

Senator in Congress	Edward J. Markey	2079
	Brian J. Herr	1799
	Blanks	295
	Write-in	4

ELECTIONS

Governor & Lt. Governor	Baker & Polito	2230
	Coakley & Kerrigan	1340
	Falchuk & Jennings	339
	Lively & Saunders	101
	McCormick & Post	83
	Blank	81
	Write-in	3
Attorney General	Maura Healey	2053
	John B. Miller	1837
	Blank	284
	Write-in	3
Secretary of State	William Francis Galvin	2300
	David D'Arcangelo	1392
	David L. Factor	205
	Blank	277
	Write-in	3
Treasurer	Deborah B. Goldberg	1871
	Michael J. Heffernan	1716
	Ian T. Jackson	218
	Blank	370
	Write-in	2
Auditor	Suzanne M. Bump	1974
	Patricia S. Saint Aubin	1615
	MK Merelice	187
	Blank	398
	Write-in	3
Representative in Congress	Richard E. Neal	2799
	Blank	1165
	Write-in	89
Representative in Congress	James P. McGovern	76
	Blank	48
	Write-in	0
Councilor	Jennie L. Caissie	2630
	Blank	1512
	Write-in	35
Senator in General Court	Anne M. Gobi	1771
	Michael J. Valanzola	2172
	Blank	226
	Write-in	8
Rep. in General Court	Todd M. Smola	3289
	Blank	857
	Write-in	31
District Attorney	Anthony D. Gulluni	2747
	Blank	1389

ELECTIONS

	Write-in	41
Register of Probate	Gale D. Candaras	1736
	Suzanne T. Sequin	1989
	Blank	447
	Write-in	5
Reg. Voc. Tech. School Committee (Belchertown)		
	Lorraine F. Alves	2605
	Blank	1550
	Write-in	22
Reg. Voc. Tech. School Committee (Granby)		
	Blank	3480
	Write-in	697
Reg. Voc. Tech. School Committee (Hardwick)		
	Julie Quink	2371
	Blank	1781
	Write-in	25
Reg. Voc. Tech School Committee (Monson)		
	Blank	3649
	Write-in	528
Reg. Voc. Tech. School Committee (New Braintree)		
	Blank	3693
	Write-in	484
Reg. Voc. Tech. School Committee (Ware)		
	M. Barbara Ray	2360
	Blank	1793
	Write-in	24
Reg. Voc. Tech. School Committee (Palmer)		
	Michael J. Cavanaugh	2715
	Blank	1434
	Write-in	28
Question 1: Adjustment to the state's gasoline sales tax law		
	Yes	2225
	No	1804
	Blank	133
Question 2: Adjustment to the state's beverage container deposit law		
	Yes	785
	No	3296
	Blank	96
Question 3: Repeal of the state's expanded gaming act		
	Yes	1639
	No	2445
	Blank	93
Question 4: Adoption of the sick time entitlement law		
	Yes	2310

ELECTIONS

No	1738
Blank	129

Town Election - June 9, 2015

Councilor at Large:	Lorinda Baker	404
	Blanks	243
District #2 Councilor	Barbara Barry	134
	Blanks	57
Planning Board	Norman Czech	433
	Blanks	219
School Committee	Gary Blanchette	432
	Blanks	213

Question #1 - Shall the Town of Palmer be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to finance the replacement of the flooring at the Old Mill Pond School including design, removal and disposal of existing materials, floor preparation, moisture mitigation, HVAC repairs and other measures necessary to prevent the recurrence of a mold problem?

YES	276
NO	373

Question #2 – Shall the Town of Palmer approve the Charter amendment which would eliminate the requirement from Section 6-1 of Article 6 of the Palmer Town Charter which requires the Director of Public Works to hold a degree in Civil Engineering, as proposed by vote of the Town Council on July 14, 2014, as summarized below:

The proposed amendment would eliminate the need for the Director of Public Works to be required to have a degree in Civil Engineering?

YES	332
NO	309

District#3	Blanks	107
	Write In	11

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST 654

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

TOWN MANAGER

I herewith submit the report of the Town Manager for the Town of Palmer for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Once again I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to all of the dedicated department heads, town staff, elected officials and numerous volunteers who serve on the many boards, commissions and committees for all of their hard work and commitment to make Palmer a better community in which to live, and for their contributions to the important accomplishments listed below.

After a relatively short but very successful term of service, Collector/Treasurer Kristine Bissell, who had been the Northampton Assistant Treasurer returned to that city to become the Treasurer. The decision was made to return these offices to separate positions, and Carolyn Baldyga was appointed Collector and Linda St. Onge joined us as Treasurer.

Some of the accomplishments of the Town during FY15 included:

- Through the support of M-PACT TV and 18 minute video was produced that features eleven successful Palmer businesses and why they chose to locate and/or expand in our community. This video can be seen on our website – www.townofpalmer.com.
- Syncarpha/REM Solar received site plan approval and began construction of a 4.9 MW solar project on the former Palmer Airport property. This facility will give the Town annual revenue of \$55,800 escalating at 1.5% per year in personal property PILOT payments.
- A lease was negotiated with Syncarpha/REM to allow the placement of a 3.6 MW solar project on the Emery Street Landfill next to their Palmer Airport project. The first year's payment to the Town will be \$110,000 and escalates each year to bring in over \$3.6 million during the 25 year lease term, while eliminating our current landfill maintenance costs.
- The unsightly chain link fence along Main Street in front of the Four Corners Cemetery was replaced with a period picketed fence using \$10,000 from the Mohegan Sun Gift Account.
- In December the Town was honored at the Green Community Awards Ceremony at the State House with a citation from the Governor for achieving savings greater than 20% over the first five years of the program. Only eight communities in the Commonwealth achieved this award.
- A feasibility study for the renovation of the Town Administration Building to allow the area formerly occupied by the Police Department to provide more space for the Board of Health, Conservation Agent, Building Department, Recreation Director and the Town Manager/Town Council was completed. We hope to complete this \$560,000 project in FY16.
- The new Endelson Playground project was awarded to JL Construction Corp. and is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2015. Most of the \$572,000 cost is funded by a DHCD Grant obtained through our Community Development Department.
- The roof of the Senior Center (Memorial Hall) was replaced in May using funds from our Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the members of the Town Council for their support and clarity in defining the goals and policies for our town government, and to Andrew Golas for the help he provides on a daily basis as Executive Assistant to the Town Manager and the Town Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Blanchard
Town Manager

TOWN COUNCIL

I hereby submit the report of the Town Council of the Town of Palmer for Fiscal Year 2015.

Over the past several years the Council has been committed to investing in the buildings and infrastructure of our community. The Town Council continued to support many projects again this year to help strengthen the future of the Town of Palmer.

This year the Town Council approved Payment In Lieu of Tax Payment (PILOT) agreements with three large scale solar farms in town totaling approximately 11.6 megawatts. Once these projects are completed, the town will collect \$139,000 in personal property taxes from these projects with a 1.5% escalator per year. Additionally, the Town Council approved the construction of a large scale solar farm on the site of the former Emery Street Landfill. Upon completion of this project, the town will receive an additional \$110,000 per year in lease payments with a 2.25% escalator per year for the next 20 years.

Through the efforts of Community Development Director Alice Davey, the Town of Palmer was awarded a Community Development Block Grant for the redevelopment of Endleson Playground in Bondsville and a Common Backyards Grant for the renovation of Eager Playground in Palmer. The Eager Playground was completed in the Spring of 2015 and the Endleson Playground will be completed in the Fall of 2015. Both of these parks will be enjoyed for years to come. In addition to Alice Davey we would like to thank Shannon Sullivan, Michael Swiatlowski, Donna Collette, David Whitney, Ann Eurkus, Jim Ostrout and Phil Hebert who were instrumental in raising funds to ensure that the Endleson Playground project become a reality.

In February, 2015, Chief Robert Frydryk retired from the police department. Chief Frydryk's tenure with the Town of Palmer spanned more than thirty-eight years. We wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.

As we move forward as a community, we look toward a number of ongoing projects which will help secure our infrastructure for years to come. Most notable is the Sewer Replacement Project which will fully rehabilitate the sewer system and local roads in a number of areas of town. We also look forward to continued discussions to provide funding for improvements to Burliegh Park as well as much needed updates to the flooring at Old Mill Pond School.

The Town Council continually strives to move the Town forward and to offer quality services to the residents of Palmer. We would like to thank the Town Manager, all staff, members of boards and committees and all the many dedicated volunteers who work to make Palmer a great community to live.

We encourage you to get involved. You can make a difference. We look forward to working together in the coming year as we continue to move Palmer forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara A. Barry
Town Council President

TOWN CLERK

MARRIAGES 2014-2015

July

4	Scott H. Kozak	Palmer	Laurie A. Petsche	Monson
5	Michael J Skoczylas	Palmer	Emily R. Pelletier	Palmer
11	Samuel E. Bruttaniti, Jr.	Palmer	Terri A. Parsons	Palmer
12	Rudolph B. Wilk, Jr.	Palmer	Sandra A. Riley	Palmer
17	Walter B. Wegiel	Palmer	Angelica K. Chicoine	Palmer
19	Walter E. Lovell	W.Warren	Lisa M. Gouvin	Palmer
23	Peter G. Mayberry, Jr.	Palmer	Patricia G. Parker	Wilbraham
26	Michael J. Day	Palmer	Marie Ann Skorupski	Palmer

August

1	Raymond F. Labonte III	Wales	Jennifer Zielinski	Wales
3	Stephen M. Hollingshead	Palmer	Lisa Marie Gallus	Palmer
3	Kristopher S. Demers	Palmer	Larissa M. Lofland	Palmer
9	Christopher A. Tarr	Palmer	Denise F. Davey	Palmer
9	Peter M. Wiers	Enfield, Ct	Marie E. Alley	Palmer
9	Kathryn J. Prokop	Palmer	Carissa Skuse	Palmer
16	Paul J. Richer	Palmer	Lynn M. Plotczik	Palmer
22	Joshua R. Lloyd	Palmer	Jessica R. Woods	Palmer
24	George S. Martin	Palmer	Toni M. Detucci	Palmer
30	James M. Benoit	Palmer	Jessica S. Boyle	Palmer
30	Steven J. Sheahan	Alameda,CA	Luisa L. Cardaropoli	Alameda,CA

September

6	Scott E. Campbell	Fiskdale	Jillian A. Czech	Palmer
6	Nicholas A. Aldrich	Palmer	Heather M. Lynds	Palmer
6	Michael T. Collins	Palmer	Sherry L. Granger	Palmer
12	Jeffrey D. Staiti	Palmer	Stephanie R. Wesolowski	Palmer
14	James D. O'Hara	Palmer	Kelly A. McCallum	Palmer
20	Derek Williams	Palmer	Dodi A. Leblanc	Palmer
20	Arthur B. Rhoades	Palmer	Sherry L. Verallis	Palmer
27	Thomas W. Hopper	Palmer	Kayla E. Haveles	Palmer
30	Deborah Norcott	Palmer	Margaret Nolan	Palmer

October

4	Kevin M. Goodhind	Palmer	Alyssa M. Swiatlowski	Palmer
4	John J. Coutts	Tolland Ct.	Laura J. Buxton	Tolland, Ct.
11	William P. Mulligan	Palmer	Melanie M. Lapointe	Palmer
12	John A. Payant, Jr.	Palmer	Jillanne B. Szenda	Palmer
12	George C. Tinkelenberg	Palmer	Stephanie J. Maher	Palmer
25	John M. Manning	Palmer	Sarah M. Okseniak	Palmer
31	George Glatz, Jr.	Palmer	Marie Christner	Palmer

November

9	Gabriel I Cordeiro	Palmer	Dawna Mae Paul	Palmer
20	David E. Granger	Palmer	Jumpee Prasitchai	Palmer

December

4	Albert J. Morales	S. Carolina	Linda Constantino	Palmer
6	Clifford G. Haendiges	Palmer	June A. Johnson	Palmer
6	Bryan Clough	Palmer	Rebekah L. Mayou	Palmer
13	Timothy D. Reim	Palmer	Robin L. Peterson	Palmer
22	Nicholas J. Harney	Texas	Ghina G. Ghrear	Palmer

January

3	Larry E. Grenon	Palmer	Gail Levasseur	Palmer
6	Linda J. Lamay	Palmer	Judith B. McMahon	Palmer

February

5	Jacob T. Paull	Palmer	Abigail A. Dennett	NH
8	Keith W. Dallmann	Holyoke	Rosa Heredia	Palmer
18	Richard M. Hicks	Palmer	Brittany Martin	Monson

March

7	Nathan R. Letner	Palmer	Ashley M. Riley	Palmer
20	Keith E. Leaning	Palmer	Emma J. Belling	Palmer

April

11	David S. Anton	Palmer	Nancy E. Papp	N. Grafton
13	Michael P. Suleski	Palmer	Anna Kutlieva	Palmer
25	Thomas Ventura	Palmer	Michelle M. Brier	Palmer
30	Bharat Patel	Palmer	Gita Dixit	Palmer

May

9	Gerald Allan Forgette	Palmer	Debra Ann Stiles	Palmer
16	William John Bigda, Jr.	Wilbraham	Ashley Michelle LaFleur	Wilbraham
19	Nathan A. Forkey	Palmer	Rosaris Ortiz	Palmer
22	Alexander B. Piechota	Palmer	Kristy A. Ore	Oakham
23	Steven J. Pikul	Palmer	Lee Ann Kasperson	Palmer
29	Wesley Robert Deshano	Beverly	Rachael Samantha Roy	Beverly

June

5	Scott C. Tencza	Palmer	Ann Elizabeth Hyszcak	Palmer
6	Daniel John Koss	Palmer	Allison Grace Jameson	Palmer
13	Nicholas Armand Elie	Ware	Amanda Ashlee Laurie	Ware

18	Christopher M. Hamilton	Alabama	Kimberly A. Bailey	Alabama
27	Matthew M. Ablicki	Palmer	Tiffany Sedelow	Palmer
27	Robert S. Friedmann	Freeport, NY	Eriks N. Sininsky	Freeport, NY

DEATHS 2014-2015

Date	Name	Age
July		
1	Samson, Guy	81
2	Matrow, Mary	62
5	Bryall, Chad	41
6	McCarthy, Florence L.	83
11	Ashe, Eileen C.	92
13	Niemczura, Pauline C.	89
14	LeDuc, Roger O.	84
14	Ziemba, Wanda M.	96
16	Ziarno, Claire T.	79
18	Adams, George	73
20	St. Jean, Irene	91
22	Shea, Christopher J.	57
23	Reagan, Mary C.	93
23	St. John, Mary	89
31	Fortin, Peter E.	71
August		
2	Muise, Christopher R.	32
3	Gilley, Dean L.	26
3	Cormier, Paul J.	56
9	Loux, Dorothy	90
10	Tippett, Louise J.	94
10	Hawk, Jr., William	86
12	LaVallee, Rosemary	77
16	Hastings, Lenore A.	55
19	Lague, Mary E.	94
23	Griffin, Donald M.	65
26	Bray, Marcy L.	42
26	Gibbs, Sr., Kenneth	82
29	Bouvier, Kevin J.	32
29	Vachon, Raymond	67
September		
4	Matera, Cecelia A.	93
6	King, Carol A.	67
6	Frame, Justin M.	25
7	Sullivan, John R.	78
8	DellaCroce, Louise M.	80
8	Pierce, Dawn L.	56

9	Connelly, Linda A	65
11	Smith, Alice	90
14	Hermanson, Eric R.	56
18	Parker, William E.	66
18	Sibilia, Arturo R.	87
20	Perok, Stephanie	55
22	Connors, Brayden J.	1 hour
23	Anastos, Maude F.	88
23	Ellis, George R.	81
27	Ericksberg, Jr., Alvah	87

October

1	Jarvis, Wolfred J.	88
4	Blondin, William F.	84
4	Flynn, Anita E.	86
5	Tenczar, Antoinette T.	99
6	Goddu, Alice	87
7	Truhart, Beatrice C.	95
15	Kline, Hazel V.	88
16	Przybla, Edward	72
16	Meyer, Kim A.	54
19	Lappe, William J.	65
19	Marosits, Roseanne	67
20	Zamsky, Paul S.	64
26	Bienvenue, Evelyn	88
27	Potter, Cecile C.	51
29	Marciniec, Frank S.	94

November

2	Floyd, Lauren E.	82
2	Carper, Leona M.	93
7	Trifilo, Raymond	91
12	Fowler, Bruce E.	58
15	Wiley, Evelyn G.	98
16	Collins, Julia S.	74
17	White, Donald E.	96
21	Sullivan, Daniel T.	94
25	McNeill, Arlene	98
29	Haggerty, Jr., Walter A.	86
30	Jones, Barbara E.	62

December

1	Rogers, Barbara	90
1	Boyle, Toby	40
3	Adams, Mary	72
4	Gladu, Donald C.	87
6	Webb, Harold T.	68
9	Comi, Donna D.	72

January

3	Provost, Raymond A.	71
4	Stearns, Barbara A.	80
6	Coache, Lorraine F.	82
10	Berthiaume, Raymond W.	66
12	Lopata, Walter J.	85
13	Zajac, Mary A.	94
15	Desotell, Eileen M.	81
18	Ducomb, Catherine M.	90
18	Roberts, Gertrude	74
21	MacDonald, Sandara J.	66
21	Roy, Edward R.	93
21	Wostena, Blanche A.	86
28	Hastings, Gloria A.	61
29	Lebida, Margaret A.	57
29	Sledziewski, Wanda V.	90
31	Beauregard, Dorothy E.	98

February

1	Mowduk, Mary A.	86
2	Pereira, Estelle C.	89
5	Chmura, Gertrude V.	84
5	Piechota, Shirley A.	74
9	Grinaski, Christine E.	53
12	Silva, Antonio S.	93
13	Sepiol, Richard E.	74
18	Garvin, Marion	75
19	Dellapenna, Charles T.	69
19	Wright, Geraldine J.	80
23	Pikul, Theresa M.	94
24	Czupryna, Stanley J.	94
24	Wozniakowski, Francis L.	78
26	Smith, Henry M.	95
27	Korzec, Frand W.	92
28	Magorian, David J.	2 months

March

2	Miller, Irene	86
2	Sullivan, Shirley M.	88
3	Malboeuf, Normand A.	86
4	Rebello, Ernest P.	81
5	Brouillette, Ralph H.	74
5	Erikson, Walter H.C.	92
7	Daigneault, Lorraine M.	72
8	Dansereau, Jeffrey L.	59
8	Merritt, George E.	72
9	Gauthier, Albertine M.	61
9	O'Connor, Patricia M.	84
11	Murphy, Donald B.	83
12	Graham, Edward	87
13	Mason, Tammy L.	45
13	Yurkunas, Patricia E.	61

16	Christenson, Albert T.	95
16	Sabadosa, Richard	49
18	Girard, Patricia	69
19	Wilga, Mary A.	101
21	Boczar, Sophie	81
24	Wing, Roberta A.	77
29	Berthiaume, Irene	86
30	Kenyon, Helen R.	87
30	Marshall, Paul R.	57

April

3	Sarnowski, Edward S.	87
5	Bigda, William R.	75
6	Wilson, Irene S.	95
8	Forsman, Robert S.	90
10	Rathbone, Cornelia V.	97
14	Webb Jr., William J.	71
16	Tucker, Mildred C.	67
18	Pelletier, Lucien H.	92
19	Talbot, Gail M.	80
20	Gay, Jr., Ernest M.	66
20	Holbrook, Sophie	96
20	Ragno, Michael P.	56
22	Balbino, David F.	51
26	May, Gearold L.	61
27	Gendron, Guy	89
27	O'Connell, Sr., David D.	80

May

5	Fish, Patricia A.	98
5	Stred, Richard S.	50
7	Quinn, Francis F.	80
12	Ziobrowski, Albina M.	82
15	Clough, Rose M.	92
16	Meilleur, Ellen J.	64
17	Morris, Anastasia B.	89
19	Hoffman, James F.	64
21	Kszepka, Charlotte J.	95
21	Laflamme, Dianne M.	62
23	Ochs, Marcia A.	52
24	Pyzocha, John	88
25	Skaza, Mildred R.	88
28	Moshimer, Paul	65

June

1	Sowa, Josephine I.	96
2	Westermann, Michelle M.	55
3	Donovan, Patricia A.	84
6	Leroux, Louis J.	80
9	Clifton, Joseph P.	72
11	Casolla, Laura A.	74
11	Griswold, Eugene S.	65

12	Robert, Annette M.	59
15	Lajzer, Marjorie R.	86
15	Stevens, Randi	55
18	Staknis, Alexander V.	92
20	Augustine, John F.	93
24	Benoit, Anna M.	60
25	Larzazs, Marjorie A.	78
26	Reim, Timothy D.	41
27	Adamsky, William D.	48
27	Skaza, Stanley A.	91
28	Karcz, Veronica E.	85
29	DiMascola, Peter J.	66
29	Villanueva, Irma	79
30	Morin, Alice	87

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation Commission Introduction

The Palmer Conservation Commission (The Commission) administers the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) and associated regulations (310 CMR 10.00). The Commission also reviews all Forest Cutting Plans within the town, all septic system plans within the jurisdiction of the WPA and any project within areas of protected rare/endangered species and/or priority habitat governed by the National Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP), a division of the Massachusetts Fisheries & Wildlife.

Accordingly, any proposed activity that may remove, fill, dredge or alter a wetland resource area is subject to The Commission approval. Wetlands that are subject to protection under the act include any area within 100 feet of a swamp, marsh, forested wetland, vernal pool, pond, intermittent stream, and the 100-year flood zone. The Commission also has jurisdiction within 200 feet of any stream that flows year round, unless the stream is designated as a densely developed area. In this case, the jurisdiction is from the mean annual high water mark 25 feet out. It should be noted that wetlands may not be wet all year round and low areas that flood in the spring may be considered wetlands as well.

The Role of the Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission regulates permit activities that may alter wetlands or their buffer zones in protected areas. Regulated activities include, but are not limited to, dumping leaves, brush, grass, debris, cutting trees or shrubs, reconstructing lawns, building or constructing any type of structures or a septic system, grading, excavating, or filling, changing storm water discharge, polluting wetlands or streams, creating any impervious surface (paving a driveway). Activities within protected area may require a permit, for more information on any given project please consult our Wetlands Protection Brochure available in the Conservation Commission Office.

Members of the Conservation Commission

The Commission is made up of Palmer residents that share a passion for protecting the wetland resources of the town. Commissioners are appointed by the Town Manager for a three-year term. The commissioners and staff are continuously educating themselves through training programs, seminars and conferences sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) in order to stay current with constantly evolving rules and regulations, updated scientific data and best management practices.

The following Conservation Commission Member served in Fiscal Year 2015: Mr. Robert Ring (Chair), Mr. Donald Duffy (Vice-Chair), Mr. Peter Izyk, Mr. Dennis Cote, Mr. Sean O'Donnell, Mr. Tharyn Nein-Large and Ms. Sarah Brodeur. There are currently two open vacancies on the Commission and all interested resident should send a letter of request to the Town Manager.

Additionally, Ms. Angela Panaccione has been serving as the towns Conservation Agent since 2013. As Conservation Agent Ms. Panaccione serves as an informational resource to the Commission by performing routine and complex professional, administrative and technical duties; including keeping the Commissioners informed on changes in Federal and State environmental protection regulations, as appropriate. Ms. Panaccione also reviews all filings and analyzes submitted data and plans for compliance with the requirements of Wetlands Protection Act, the Rives Protection Act, the Town of Palmer's Wetlands Protection Ordinance and associated federal, state, and local regulations; manages the processing of all wetlands filings for proper and timely action associated with Commission business to ensure compliance with legally mandated deadlines. She also advises applicants on wetlands applications for various projects by providing consultation services as needed; maintaining office appointments; communicating with all applicants, engineers, attorneys, consultants, etc. and scheduling and conducting through site visits and preliminary project review, to ensure that proposed projects do not threaten environmental and conservation values and interests. Additionally, Ms. Panaccione investigates

complaints of wetland violations, coordinates & monitors potential violations and recommends appropriate action needed for site remediation.

Table 1: Total fillings per category/ per year

PERMITS	YEARLY TOTAL FY 2015	YEARLY TOTAL FY 2014	YEARLY TOTAL FY 2013
Request for Determining Applicability/ Determination of Applicability	6	7	10
Notice of Intent/ Order of Conditions/Amended NOI & OOC	5	6	4
Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation/ Order of Resource Area Delineation	0	0	1
Requests for Extensions of Orders of Conditions	1	1	0
Enforcement Orders/Cease & Desist Letters (violations)	2	2	3
Emergency Certifications	0	1	3
Certifications of Compliance	4	2	1
Site Visits	96	112	83

Important Issues and Accomplishments of 2015

Over the 2015 Fiscal year the Commission has been extremely busy dealing with many important conservation issues and the permitting of various large scale developments, such as:

- **Donaldson Family Trust Conservation Restriction:** The Commission worked with New England Forestry Foundation to finalize a 97 acre Conservation Restriction (CR) off Summer Street to protect the land and its conservation values, in perpetuity, in a natural, forested, and open condition. The CR will promote the conservation of the forests, wetlands, riparian habitat, and wildlife thereon; will enhance the conservation values of abutting and neighboring open spaces and conservation areas including abutting lands owned by the Town of Palmer; and will permit the passive recreational use of the property in a manner that does not materially impair its conservation values, including water quality, and is consistent with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- **Palmer Motorsports Facility (DEP #256-0256, 256-0307):** Since 2006, the Commission has actively been working with Palmer Motorsports Inc. to permit a facility in off West Warren Road. Site work has begun and the Commission and its Agent have been actively monitoring the construction for permit compliance. The Commission is also in the process of negotiating a 320 acres Conservation Restriction on site, which will connect with the US Fish & Wildlife land to the east and provide a trail connection via Quarry Road, to Colonels Mountain trail system.
- **Water Quality Testing:** The Commission is currently conducting water quality sampling (e coli) on the Quaboag River.
- **Conservation Land Inventory:** The enabling legislation that created conservation commissions in 1957 authorizes Conservation Commissions to inventory the municipality's natural resources and to prepare relevant maps and plans. The first stage of the conservation lands inventory, completed last year, was to identify and map all protected and unprotected land of interest for open space, conservation or recreation use in Palmer. The second stage, currently ongoing, is to

develop Conservation Binders of each town owned conservation land, including all relevant history, plans, and documents pertaining to the land and the history of its acquisition.

Goals/Activities for 2016

- **Updating Palmer Wetlands Regulations:** The Commission had revised the 1988 Town of Palmer Wetlands Regulations to coincide with the amended 2013 Wetlands Ordinance. During FY 2016, the Commission will hold a series of public hearings and informational sessions on the new revised Regulations and will also hold a public comment period before the regulations are promulgated by the Commission.
- **Acquisition of the “Turnpike” Property:** Since the early 1990’s, the Commission has actively been pursuing the acquisition of 92 acres along Kings Brook, known as the Brainerd/Mass Pike parcel, from Mass DOT. If acquired, this parcel can be accessed from the 200 acre Midura Conservation land on Old Warren Road and would become part of it, thereby extending Midura to the Mass Pike. Additionally, trails exist on the property for recreational purposes, which the Commission would maintain and connect into from Midura.
- **Developing a “Blue-way” on the Quaboag River:** Like hiking trails, Blue Trails offer people an opportunity to explore. A water trail offers paddlers a healthy recreational activity and the chance to come to know a river. The Commission will be working with the Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council (C4RWC) on developing a canoe/kayak trail on the Quaboag River. Several locations in town have been identified as possible put in/take out location. This year the Commission will explore the areas and conduct a feasibility assessment of the various town owned parcels to determine the sites best suited for a launch.

The Commission is always looking to expand its base through associated members, interns or volunteers (for water quality monitoring, river clean-up and trail maintenance this summer). Anyone interested should contact the Commission at conservation@townofpalmer.com.

The Commission would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Intern and New Commissioner Sarah Brodeur for all her hard work and effort this year! The Commission would also like to thank Chairman Robert Ring and Commissioner Dennis Cote, whom resigned from the Commission at the start of the new fiscal year, for all their work over the years. Additionally, the Commission would also like to thank all the residents of Palmer for their support over the past years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela C Panaccione
Conservation Agent
Palmer Conservation Commission

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Palmer Planning Board, consisting of five elected members, met regularly during the twelve-month period of July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015. It is the Board's policy to meet as often as necessary to conduct business deemed appropriate under Massachusetts General Laws and the Charter of the Town of Palmer, generally the first and third Mondays of each month if meeting space is available.

The Planning Department is comprised of the following elected members and staff:

Elected Board Members

Chairman

Michael Marciniac

Vice Chairman

Norman Czech

Clerk

Andrew Golas

Thomas Skowrya

Kathy Burns

Staff

Town Planner/Economic Development Director

Linda Leduc

Administrative Assistant

Nicole Parker

During the past 12-months, the Planning Board held twenty-one regular meetings, as well as conducted numerous site inspections and review inspections. In addition to our own meetings, we have also had meetings with other Boards and Committees and have attended seminars and workshops to help better prepare our members for the positions for which they have been elected. During these various public meetings, the Board held hearings and acted on two Special Permits, eight Site Plan Approvals, eight storm water permits, four findings, and signed thirteen Subdivision Approval Not Required (SANR) plans that met current zoning requirements and therefore are deemed exempt from subdivision regulations. Due to the approvals the Town should look forward to seeing new businesses and development along N. Main Street, the Palmer Industrial Park, Church Street and Thorndike Street, to name a few.

The Permit Extension Act, from the Acts of 2010, continued to be in affect this year, and extended all of the annual gravel removal special permits for another year. The Board, however, continues to inspect all of the locations three times during the operating season and maintains current bonds, liability insurance, operating and inspection fees.

The interest in developing large-scale, ground mounted, photovoltaic systems within Town remains high. During FY15 four projects were permitted. On Baptist Hill Road, it is expected that Phase 2, totaling 2.6 MW, will be completed and connected to the grid this fall. The culmination of these projects total 11.39MW, in addition to the 14.85MW already in generation, (24.4 MW of solar power is enough electricity to serve 4,026 homes) results in the Town of Palmer being a lead community in the state for commercial solar power generation. In addition to the environmental benefits, the Town also realizes an economic gain through annual tax revenues which, this year, are in excess of \$243,000.00. Other economic returns are through the contracted purchase of 100% of the town's electric needs via net metering credits generated from phase 2 of the solar project on Baptist Hill and the annual lease payments for a 4 MW project at the former Landfill on Emery Street, currently in the permitting phase.

With Phase 2 of the Town Hall HVAC project complete, the Board, through Energy Committee representation, supported a third Green Communities grant application. This year's grant application is based on a recent energy audit of all of the Town buildings and is to fund 10 energy efficient upgrades at 6 of the municipal buildings. The grant application, for \$246,584, was submitted on March 25 and announcements are expected to be forthcoming in the new fiscal year. With the ever-changing technology in the area of power generation and conservation and in consideration of the federal and state incentives that are currently being offered, we continue to pursue promising programs that will benefit the residents by stabilizing our energy costs and replacing aging infrastructure. It is anticipated that in the forthcoming year, with the advent of a new administration, programs will be developed to make better use of hydroelectric power in the state and the town will pursue those that will benefit the community.

Economic Development is of course a priority for many Palmer residents and is also a concern for the Planning Board and staff. The Economic Development Director continues to attend development conferences and meet regularly with like groups such as the Economic Development Partners, the Quaboag Valley Commercial Action Network, Mass Development, and regional directors of the Mass Office of Business Development to attract development to the five Priority Development Sites as well as to various undeveloped, underutilized parcels. The Department met numerous times with representatives of Palmer Motor Sports during construction of the Whiskey Hill Raceway which opened in May. This development has had a positive impact based on information from local business owners. We continue to pursue options with the mill owners in Thorndike. Future commercial development at the Shearer/Thorndike Street intersection remains a priority and discussions with potential developers are ongoing. The Board and Economic Development Director realize the great economic benefit a future rail stop would bring to Palmer and will continue to participate in regional forums and studies and represent Palmer's interest in this matter.

The Board continually works to improve its site design standards and parking requirements by adding more sustainable design standards to the process. These will be implemented through amendment of our current Site Plan Review criteria. The Board is also drafting a mill overlay district to diversify and augment the industrial uses currently allowed in the Village of Thorndike and a new commercial business district to accommodate denser more vertical building development centered-around pedestrian-oriented plazas. This commercial business district would be applicable to the Thorndike Street corridor as development interest continues to be oriented proximal to the Mass Pike exchange.

In closing, the Planning Board would like to thank the citizens of Palmer, elected officials, town boards and the Planning Department staff for assisting us in our planning endeavors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael S. Marciniak
Chairman

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 permit applications, specifications and plans were reviewed, permits were issued and construction monitored for the following:

PERMITS ISSUED IN FY-15				
TYPE		NUMBER OF PERMITS	FEE TOTALS	ESTIMATED COST TOTALS
New				
	Single Family Homes	5	\$ 5,602.75	\$ 951,000.00
	Multi-Family Homes	0		
	Cabins-Summer Camps	0		
	Commercial	2	\$ 4,412.80	\$ 1,085,000.00
Solar				
	Residential	81	\$ 14,182.48	\$ 2,405,642.30
	Commercial	2	\$ 63,358.81	\$ 12,661,762.00
Additions				
	Residential	8	\$ 2,880.80	\$ 225,000.00
	Commercial	1	\$ 200.00	\$ 18,500.00
Mobile Homes				
	Replacement	3	\$ 750.00	\$ 159,000.00
Renovations/Alterations				
	Residential	48	\$ 5,707.00	\$ 796,169.00
	Commercial	24	\$ 7,302.30	\$ 982,357.00
Complete Renovation of buildings with 2 or more dwelling units		2	\$ 700.00	\$ 109,000.00
Garage/Barn				
	Residential	3	\$ 787.20	\$ 67,610.00
	Commercial	0		
Decks/Porches/Stairs				
	Residential	25	\$ 2,006.00	\$ 150,206.00
	Commercial	0		
Temporary Structures				
	Residential	0		
	Commercial	3	\$ 185.00	\$ 46,800.00
Convert Duplex to Single Family				
		1	\$ 100.00	
Add Dwelling unit to Single Family				
		1	\$ 842.40	\$ 79,000.00

Roofing/Siding/Insulation/				
Window or Door Replacement	Residential	181	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 1,359,436.47
	Commercial	21	\$ 2,145.00	\$ 1,946,583.00
Mechanical/ Sheet Metal				
	Residential	5	\$ 205.00	\$ 25,000.00
	Commercial	7	\$ 570.00	\$ 282,559.00
Shed				
		10	\$ 722.80	\$ 31,455.00
Sign				
		8	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 77,600.00
Pool				
	Above Ground	9	\$ 585.00	\$ 45,156.45
	In Ground	2	\$ 180.00	\$ 68,000.00
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances/Chimneys				
		33	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 50,313.26
Demolition				
	Residential	14	\$ 1,825.00	\$ 164,300.00
	Commercial	2	\$ 100.00	
Certificates of Inspection (Periodic				
Inspections for Specified Use Groups)		40	\$ 1,885.00	
Other Income				
			\$ 318.75	
Occupancy/Use Permits		92		
Building		633	\$ 129,579.09	
Electrical		274	\$ 88,361.21	
Gas		67	\$ 6,560.00	
Plumbing		125	\$ 9,756.00	
TOTALS		1732	\$ 363,835.39	\$ 23,787,449.48

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonita Weeks
Inspector of Buildings

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health is required by state statutes and regulations to perform many important and crucial duties relative to the protection of public health, food safety, reporting and control of disease, promotion of sanitary living conditions, and protection of the environment from damage and pollution. If the enforcement of regulations may cause manifest injustice, the Board of Health would not conflict with the minimum standards of any applicable statute, code or regulation. We continue to prevent, promote and protect public health in the community.

Joshua Mathieu, Public Health Agent and Susan Hintze, Administrative Clerk, see to the day to day activities of the Board of Health. The office is located in the Town Hall and hours are Mondays from 8:30am to 7:00pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm. The Board of Health consists of a three member board: Jayne Heede, Public Health Nurse, John Lukaskiewicz, Secretary, and Paul Benard, Chairman. The Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm in the Town Hall.

The Massachusetts Sanitary Code, Chapter 11 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation provides detailed standards for safe and sanitary housing. All persons should be afforded a suitable housing environment. Inspections are done upon request for compliance or when a complaint is received. Housing inspections were done for more than 100 residences and correction orders were issued as necessary. The Board of Health also investigates all nuisances, unsanitary conditions, sources of filth, housing violations, and causes of sickness within the town.

Sanitary sewage disposal is closely regulated to ensure the health and wellbeing of the community. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulates the surface disposal of sanitary sewage known as Title 5 of the State Environmental Code. Title 5 establishes minimum statewide standards for the design, use, siting and construction of septic systems. The Board of Health's role is to enforce the Title 5 regulations by reviewing preliminary plans for siting and design, witness percolation tests, act upon applications for permits to install, modify and repair septic systems, inspect septic installations, repairs and upgrades and order corrective measures when violations are found. To ensure proper septic system construction and handling of pumped sewage the Board of Health requires annual permits for septage disposal installers and sewage haulers. This year 18 percolation tests were witnessed, 10 septic systems were installed and 7 were repaired.

The Board issues licenses and inspects all food establishments under 105 CMR 590.000: State Sanitary Code Chapter X – Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments. The food establishments are inspected twice a year for facility cleanliness, food safety, food security, consumer protection and up-to-date certifications. All foodborne illness reports are immediately investigated.

The Board of Health issued the following permits:

1-Day Food	6
Bakery	5
Body Art Establishment	1
Body Art Practitioner	1
Retail Food	20
Deli	4
Food Establishment / Restaurant	50
Frozen Desert	13
Funeral Director	2
Milk	44
Mobile Food	2
Mobile Home Park	1

Motel / Cabins	2
Perc Test	18
Recreational Camp	2
Seasonal Food / Restaurant	2
Septic Final Inspections	10
Septic Hauler	12
Septic Installer	18
Septic Plan Review	14
Septic Component Replacement	7
Swimming Pool / Hot Tub (Public)	4
Tanning	2
Tobacco	20
Well Permit	2

Wendy LaSage, Animal Inspector, investigates animal bites, possible exposure to rabies, issues quarantines as needed and conducts annual barn inspections. This year we had 21 animal bites and 2 bats were submitted to the MA State Rabies laboratory for testing. The Animal Inspector continues to monitor the domestic animal population to ensure there is ample food and water, good health and that they are free from disease. The feral cat population of the Town is also monitored and all necessary means are used to control the population of these cats. Follow-up by the Animal Inspector is done for all animal complaints.

The Massachusetts Bureau of Communicable Disease Control requires the Board of Health to conduct a disease surveillance follow-up investigation for all notifications of a confirmed or unconfirmed communicable disease event in the Town. Palmer is in the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network – MAVEN. MAVEN is a web based disease surveillance and case management system that enables the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to capture and transfer appropriate public health, laboratory and clinical data efficiently and securely over the internet in real-time. The following are the cases we responded to this year:

Babesiosis	2
Campylobacteriosis	1
Ehrlichiodid	1
Giardiasis	1
Group B Streptococcus	1
Hepatitis B	1
Hepatitis C	12
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	5
Influenza	44
Lyme Disease	27
Measles	1
Pertussis and other Bordetella Species)	1
Salmonellosis	2
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	2
TB-L TBI	2
Varicella	1

We are using the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). The MIIS contains online, secure and real-time immunization records for individuals across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The goal of the MIIS is to give healthcare providers and families a tool to help ensure that all individuals are immunized based on the latest recommendations. Immunizations are a cornerstone of public health. They have been ranked by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th Century. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Immunization Program is committed to promoting the health of Massachusetts's citizens by reducing the burden of vaccine preventable diseases that affect residents of the Commonwealth.

Two influenza immunization clinics were held and visits were made to homebound residents. The clinics were held at Divine Mercy Parish and Converse Middle School. The state supplied 140 doses of vaccine to be used for uninsured or underinsured adults. The Board would like to thank Wing Memorial Hospital, Jayne Heede, Rose Tyburski, Lee Nadolski, and Regina Janosz, and the volunteers who so generously gave their time and for the facilities that have for many years donated space.

Palmer became a Mass in Motion community in September 2014. Under this grant we have formed the “Palmer Wellness Leadership Team”. This team consists of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, the Board of Health, Planning Board, Recreation, Council on Ageing, Conservation Committee and the Town Managers office. We have begun working to help educate and motivate residents on the importance of living a more healthy lifestyle and to change our built environment to make it easier for residents to be physically active in their daily lives and to access healthy food. Walking maps were created for each of the four villages and are available in many locations free of charge. The Mass in Motions committee is working on a Complete Streets policy ,if when implemented, would make Palmer eligible for the MassDOT Complete Streets incentive program and would lay out a plan to make all Palmer roads safe and comfortable for all types of road users. The committee is also working to advance a community garden in the near future. Palmer is committed to these multi-year programs for improving health in the community.

Funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance (EQAF) the FY2014 Community innovation Challenge (CIC) Grant program, prepared by Ready EDI and Associates, and submitted to the Hampden County Shared Public Health Nurse Oversight Committee we have completed a Hampden County Twelve Town Community Health Assessment, including Palmer.

We have adopted Private Well Regulations. The purpose of private well regulation is to provide for the protection of the public health, safety welfare and the environment by, among other things, requiring the proper siting, construction and testing of private wells.

We have adopted Regulations for Refuse and Recycling Collection. These regulations provide for the systematic collection of refuse and recyclables in order to promote recycling, to comply with state-mandated waste bans and to assist in cost reduction for residential waste disposal by removing those items from the waste stream which can be managed more effectively in other ways.

We are working on new poultry regulations. The purpose of poultry regulations is to regulate the keeping of poultry for the purpose of pets, home egg production, gardening or similar purposes. This regulation details the obligations of the keeper so as to prevent a nuisance to the surrounding lots or any public health concerns, as well as a permit issuing process.

We are working on regulations for the keeping of horses and other hoofed animals. The use of the application process can be considered twofold - it allows the town to monitor the activities of animal use, and it provides the state with a more accurate census of animals in the area for the purpose of future planning in regards to bioterrorism and disaster management.

With new trends in tobacco use and products we are working to revise and update the current tobacco regulations.

We continue to develop and up-date our ALL-Hazards Emergency Dispensing and Shelter Plans. In the event of a natural disaster or a public health emergency we need to rely on our preparedness, plans, database of resources, equipment and personnel.

We are members of the Quaboag Regional Emergency Planning Committee. The REPC is committed to preserving the community and its resources by maintaining a Regional Hazardous Materials Plan to minimize the risk to public safety, health and property damage.

We are members of the Hampden County Health Coalition. The Coalition coordinates and collaborates with public health entities to improve and safeguard the quality of life for our residents and plan for natural and man-made disasters. The Coalition has implemented a Shared Public Health Nurse Assistance program with the Ludlow Public Health Nurse to address long-term unmet needs and service local public health gaps.

The Board and staff acknowledge and appreciate the assistance and cooperation of all Town Boards, Departments, Commissions and Community Organizations.

Respectfully Submitted

Palmer Board of Health

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Palmer Community Development Department is located in the Town Administration Building at 4417 Main Street Palmer. The office is open Monday 8:30am to 7:30pm and Tuesday – Thursday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The Community Development Department was established in 1991 for the purpose of administering a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for the Town of Palmer. Over the years the department has expanded its services by becoming a Local Rehabilitation Agency for the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, and by applying for and receiving grants from other agencies/programs. The Community Development Director also provides technical assistance to the Palmer Redevelopment Authority.

Community Development Block Grant Program

The Community Development Block Grant Program is funded under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. The primary objective of the statute is “... *to develop viable, urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low – moderate income persons.*”

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development encourages: programs which develop and preserve affordable housing; planning toward both resource protection and sustainable economic activity; downtown revitalization integral to community development; and community-based planning that assesses needs and identifies strategies for addressing those needs. Projects eligible for funding under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program include: planning; housing rehabilitation and creation of affordable housing; economic development projects which create and/or retain jobs; efforts directed toward rehabilitation and stabilization of existing neighborhoods, commercial areas and downtowns; infrastructure; construction and/or rehabilitation of community facilities; and public social services.

During FY2015 the following grant applications were submitted:

\$473,075	FY15 Community Development Block Grant
\$ 10,000	Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Program
\$ 27,000	Adams Arts Program
\$510,075	Total value grant applications submitted

During FY2015 the following grants were awarded:

\$876,925	FY14 Community Development Block Grant
\$ 10,000	Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Program
\$886,925	Total grants awarded

During FY15 the Community Development Department expended the following Grant Funds:

\$200,000	Rehabilitation of Eager Playground
\$160,950	Rehabilitation of 6 substandard housing units, providing safe, decent and affordable housing for 11 residents
\$122,935	Microenterprise business planning, consulting and loans in the Quaboag Valley
\$ 93,869	Assistance to two (2) For-Profit Businesses within the Quaboag Valley who will create 3 full time equivalent jobs
\$ 77,673	Completion of the replacement of 1,100 feet of sanitary sewer main in South High Street in the Village of Bondsville
\$ 47,530	Provision of Domestic Violence Services, benefiting 39 survivors
\$ 43,059	General grant administration
\$ 40,606	Rehabilitation of Endelson Playground in Bondsville
\$786,622	Total Grant Expenditures

Respectfully submitted by:

Alice Davey, Community Development Director

COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission of the Palmer Council on Aging/Senior Center is to identify the total needs of the senior population, to promote and encourage new and existing activities, to provide services and education to enhance the quality of life for elders and to assist elders to age with dignity and independence.

Senior Center staff is obliged to create an atmosphere that acknowledges the value of human life, affirms the dignity and self-worth of the older adult participant, and maintains a climate of respect, trust and support. Within this atmosphere, the staff creates opportunities for older adults to apply their wisdom, experience and insight and to exercise their skills.

Council on Aging Board Members

Genevieve Bates, Chairperson

Ernie Charland, 1st Vice Chair

Linda Lamay, Secretary

Mary Hubert, 2nd Vice Chair

Peggy Corriveau

Betty Koss

Gloria Brouillette

Ruth Manning

Debbie Nathanson

Cathy Plouffe

The Council on Aging provided a broad range of services to Palmer's 60+ population during the

year July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015. The 2010 Census shows an increase of 133 citizens over the age of 60 living in Palmer. Of the 2,496 Senior Citizen's of Palmer, approximately 1,300 unduplicated elders received a direct service from the Council on Aging. Twelve issues of the Senior Center Newsletter were printed and 800 per month were distributed.

To care for the physical needs of our 60+ population, cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings are available weekly with Ruth Amador, RN, Wing Hospital, audiology screenings, eye care, foot care, massage therapy, reflexology, exercise programs, line dancing & balance classes, UMass nursing students program on community health, Healthy Eating Program, Matter of Balance Program, etc. were provided at the Palmer Senior Center. To meet the social needs we have card playing, bingo, chess, dominoes, Wii games, cribbage, night time pitch, Bridge, Red Sox night, Games Night, day time pitch league, painting class, crafts class, pool playing, once monthly breakfast, Depot Group, etc. We held a celebration for every holiday and our Annual 90+ Birthday Party and Annual 4th of July Cookout at Pulaski Park and Christmas Party at Amvets.

Outreach continues to be much needed and utilized service to the elders of Palmer. There were 726 unduplicated seniors who were served through outreach. A total of 1,023 duplicated services including but not limited to home & office consultation, phone consultation, fuel assistance, knox boxes, housing, family support, insurance, nutrition, cell phone, medical, homecare, nursing home, elder abuse, utilities, support services, etc.

We also provide a free S.H.I.N.E. Counselor and Lawyer once monthly. AARP sponsored Income Tax Preparation from February thru April 15th. There are various monthly programs available on issues facing seniors. Medical equipment was available to be loaned at no charge as needed and eighty eight individuals took advantage of this program. Wing Memorial Hospital provided the senior center with a nurse for 6 hours a week and she provided 439 services for 92 seniors. The Arthritis Foundation certified instructor held Arthritis & Tai Chi exercise class two days a week. Scantic Valley YMCA provided instructors Mon., & Wed. & Fri. for strength training classes. Lifecare of Wilbraham provided two instructors for Tai Chi class once a week. 134 seniors took advantage of the exercise programs. We started an RUOK program with seniors who are homebound being contacted once a week to check on them and see if they need anything.

A congregate meal program was held at the Palmer Senior Center, sponsored through Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. and the Council on Aging providing 3,247 Congregate Meals. The Council on Aging continues to provide supportive services to homebound elders. In Home Meals provided 84 frail elders with a hot meal five days a week, totaling 12,071 meals. In and Out of Town Van Transportation: 180 unduplicated passengers, including 19 passengers under 60 utilized this service. We provided a total of 4,509 rides. We have 2 lift-equipped vans in operation Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. We have four volunteers who provide rides for medical appointments when our vans are fully booked. We provided 93 rides this year.

1,668 Brown Bags were distributed to 139 seniors as part of the Western MA Food Bank Program for Seniors. Twenty five seniors received fresh vegetables from the Farmshare Program, part of the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture at no cost. They received \$10.00 per week worth of fresh vegetables for 10 weeks provided by Pomeroy's Vegetable Farm of East Longmeadow.

Tax Assistance, transportation, information and referrals, home delivered and congregate meals were also available to those under age 60 who are disabled. We allow those under 60 years to attend our social programs and exercise classes. We had 57 non senior participants.

There were 97 deaths of persons over the age of 60.

We had 38 volunteers with a total of 1,339 volunteer hours donated to the Senior Center. Value \$20,085.00 worth of service. THANK YOU!!

A total of \$44,668.00 was received in grant monies during the FY15 year for various uses.

I would like to thank all of the staff, volunteers and the Council on Aging Board Members for all the work that they do all year. They are very dedicated and caring people who strive to provide the best services for our elders in Palmer.

I would also like to thank The Friends of the Palmer Senior Center for their hard work and dedication to the seniors of Palmer. They give very generously to the Palmer Senior Center to fund programs and purchase items needed for the center. They gave a total of \$4,013.42 to the Council on Aging in FY15 THANK YOU!! You are a wonderful group of people!!

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Pincince
Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICE

Under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Commonwealth provides a needs-based means tested program of financial aid and medical assistance for low – income veterans and their dependents, through the Department of Veterans' Services administered by veteran's service agents throughout the state. The Veterans' Services Office works closely with the Senior Center, Shine Officer and other state agencies to ensure that elderly and disable Veterans are aware of all benefits that are available to them not just Veteran Benefits to included lower electric bill rate, government SNAP program, government cell phones, government health insurance, etc.

Retired veterans, widows or widowers, and veterans on Social Security Disability Income account for 75.5% of the Chapter 115 caseload for the town of Palmer this percentage is down from last year due to the death of several elderly veterans or their widows but the actual case files have decreased only by one with several new veterans/widows to replace the deceased case files. These Veterans are permanent Chapter 115 recipients and can only be removed from the program by moving to another town, an increase in income or death.

Veterans waiting a decision on their Social Security Disability (SSDI) Claims make up 13.5% of the towns Chapter 115 recipients and increase of 6% from last year. These Veterans receive full Chapter 115 benefits until their Disability Claims are approved. They are responsible for reimbursing the Town for their services with the retroactive check they receive from SSDI. Depending on the size of the award letter for SSDI the Veteran is either removed from Chapter 115 or the Veterans benefits are greatly reduced.

Unemployed veterans make up the last 11% of this office Chapter 115 benefit case files increase of 1% from last year. These veterans have already used up their unemployment benefits and would be homeless if they weren't on Chapter 115. The Veteran's Service Office works with the veteran and the Labor and Workforce Development Department of Career Services to help secure employment.

Over all case files have increased this year by over 10% and will keep increasing with our aging population.

While the main mission of the Veteran's Service Officers is to administer Chapter 115 benefits, and make the veterans aware of other state veterans' benefits such as bonuses for wartime service and the state annuity for 100% disable veterans. This office also helps Veterans with their Federal Veterans benefits to include enrolled in the Federal Veterans Administration Health System, apply for VA pensions and disability compensation, how to use their GI Bill Benefits, helping newly discharged Veterans to make the transition back to civilian life and ensuring these Veterans know about and understand all the benefits available to them both by the State of Massachusetts and the Federal government.

DEBORAH A.SHILAIKIS
Veterans' Agent
Town of Palmer

PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Palmer Housing Authority office and adjacent development known as Laurel Manor, is located at 13 Fletcher Street. The complex was first occupied in January of 1971. Laurel Manor consists of 48 one bedroom units. The Palmer Housing Authority operates under the State Chapter 667 Elderly/Handicapped Program. All rules and regulations are promulgated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, adopted by the Palmer Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and carried out by the housing authority staff. The staff consists of one part time Executive Director and one part time maintenance person.

Applications can be obtained at the office on 13 Fletcher Street or upon request. Currently applicants need to be 60 years of age or be an eligible handicapped/disabled person. A preference is given to local residents and local veterans 60 years of age. The current net income for eligibility is \$45,500 for one person and \$52,000 for two persons. As units become available they are filled from the waiting list of eligible applicants.

The Board of Commissioners consists of 4 members that are appointed by the Town Manager and one state appointed member. The Commissioners meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 4:00 P.M., in the community room at 13 Fletcher Street, to conduct the authority business.

The goal of the Board of Commissioners is to maintain the properties and to continue to provide clean, safe and affordable housing to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald W. Lemanski, Chairperson
Mildred Jasak, Vice Chairperson
Margaret Higgins, Treasurer
Russell Webb, Assistant Treasurer
Victoria Miner, State Appointee

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

I hereby submit my report for Fiscal Year 2015. In my limited time in the position of recreation director, the department has taken on a number of tasks. These include:

- Summer Camp Planning and Registration: Maintaining consistency in quality and affordable recreational summer day programming
- Assisted and supported the development of Eager Playground and assisted in the final phases of the Edelson Playground with the Community Development Department and the Playground Committee.
- Concert on the Common series was begun. Two performances were created for the FY 15 summer season. FY16 summer season had planning begun in May of FY15 and 6 events were scheduled.
- A tennis Tournament in collaboration with Yale New Haven Connecticut Open was scheduled and advertised for a date in June. Due to Lack of registration and interest the event was cancelled. Event will be attempted again in FY 16.
- Development of a Tennis Program in collaboration with the High School Tennis Coach to take place during the summer of FY 16.
- Acquisition of Holiday Displays from the Eastfield Mall to create festive displays throughout our community. Displays were established on Town Hall lawn, PHCC lawn, and Depot Village Park. Expansion of displays and additional event planned for FY 16 season.
- Support of PYBA and PYBSA leagues maintained and expanded upon during FY15.
- Participation in the completion of Palmers Open Space and Recreation Plan and member of the committee to see the goals through.
- Participation in the 300 Anniversary Committee. Sits as vice chair.
- Participation and support in the Wellness leadership team which during FY15 mapped walking and biking trails throughout our community. Community garden creation set in motion with the goal of beginning in May of FY16.
- Progress made in the design and development of a recreational facility at Burleigh Park. This is an ongoing development of the department and looks to increase community involvement in FY16.
- Collaboration and facilitation of a Carnival in Palmer as a fundraiser for Pathfinder Regional. This also replaces the Circus as this event benefits organizations in the town through fundraising opportunity.
- Continued support of the Trails Committee through supplies and mapping assistance.

I would like to thank all of those who have made these programs possible and I look forward to an event-filled year in Fiscal Year 2015.

Jim Ostrout
Recreation Director

LICENSE COMMISSION

The following is a summary of the licenses and fees collected for the 2014-2015 year.

Type	#	Fee	Total
All Alcoholic Beverage License			
Inn Holder	1	\$800.00	\$800.00
Club	5	\$800.00	\$4,000.00
Retail Package Store	4	\$665.00	\$2,660.00
Seasonal	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
Restaurant	12	\$800.00	\$9,600.00

Wine and Malt Beverage License

Retail Package Store	5	\$520.00	\$2,600.00
Restaurant	3	\$520.00	\$1,560.00
One Day Licenses	6	\$50.00	\$300.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard L. Fitzgerald, Chairman
Robert P. Frydryk
Jason Polonsky
Theodore Simard
Michael Magiera

ASSESSORS

LOCAL EXPENDITURES

Appropriations	\$35,294,044.43	
Offsets		\$32,457.00
Tax Title		\$80,000.00
Snow & Ice Deficits		\$0.00
State & County Charges		\$405,334.00
Overlay		\$247,972.93
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED		\$36,059,808.36

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$12,974,913.00
Local Estimated Receipts	\$4,759,000.00
Other Available Funds	\$820,211.43
Free Cash	\$491,605.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	\$19,045,729.43
NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	\$17,104,431.93

NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED / TOTAL VALUATION = TAX RATE FY2014

\$17,104,431.93 / \$884,864,559.00 = \$19.33

CLASSIFIED PERCENTAGES

	LEVY PERCENTAGE	LEVY BY CLASS
RESIDENTIAL	82.7884%	\$14,160,485.52
OPEN SPACE	0	
COMMERCIAL	6.9935%	\$1,196,198.45
INDUSTRIAL	4.6361%	\$792,978.57
PERSONAL PROPERTY	5.5820%	\$954,769.39
	100.00%	\$17,104,431.93

VALUATION BY CLASS

RESIDENTIAL	\$732,565,015
OPEN SPACE	0
COMMERCIAL	\$61,883,268
INDUSTRIAL	\$41,023,000
PERSONAL PROPERTY	\$49,393,276
TOTAL VALUATION	\$884,864,559

Respectfully submitted,
Linda LeBlanc, Assessor

TAX COLLECTOR / TREASURER

Schedule of Outstanding Receivables as of June 30, 2015

Real Estate Taxes

Levy of 2015	274,156.27
Levy of 2014	8,048.80
Levy of 2013	4,574.73
Levy of 2012	2,681.45
Prior Years	34,182.38
Total	\$ 323,643.63

Personal Property Taxes

Levy of 2015	41,052.99
Levy of 2014	2,282.01
Levy of 2013	5,244.99
Levy of 2012	4,097.83
Prior Years	33,709.27
Total	\$86,387.09

Motor Vehicle Excise

Levy of 2015	146,484.52
Levy of 2014	42,660.98
Levy of 2013	18,051.33
Levy of 2012	11,743.28
Prior Years	57,728.16
Total	\$ 276,668.27

UTILITY BILLING Charges

Sewer	\$ 494,618.05
Utility Liens Added to Taxes	\$ 11,946.78

Special Assessments Receivable

Committed interest added to taxes	\$ 1,660.96
Total	\$ 508,225.79

Grand Total **\$ 1,194,924.78**

BANK BALANCES

June 30, 2015

Financial Institution	BALANCE
Bartholomew	568,830.58
Belmont Savings	265,443.97
Century Bank	2,987,368.55
Country Bank	2,188,651.33
Eastern Bank	7,084.59
Monson Savings	418,625.96
North Brookfield Savings	1,051,774.00
Peoples Bank	694,595.89
Peoples United Bank	1,096,786.67
Unibank	1,629,001.26
United Bank	270,154.82
TOTAL	11,178,317.62

PARKING CLERK

Fiscal Year 2015

66 tickets = \$2,515.00 PAID IN FINES

Respectfully submitted by,

Carolyn I Baldyga
Town Collector/ Assistant Treasurer

TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FY15 APPROPRIATION REPORT

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2014	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2016	Ending Balance
111	Town Council	Stipend	-	9,900.00	(340.63)	9,559.37	9,030.00	529.37	-	529.37
		Expenses	-	1,625.00	340.63	1,965.63	1,965.63	-	-	-
			-	11,525.00	-	11,525.00	10,995.63	529.37	-	529.37
123	Town Manager	Salaries	-	174,961.00	2.32	174,963.32	174,611.18	352.14	-	352.14
		Expenses	10,476.00	58,388.00	(10,703.32)	58,160.68	46,133.41	12,027.27	1,129.58	10,897.69
			10,476.00	233,349.00	(10,701.00)	233,124.00	220,744.59	12,379.41	1,129.58	11,249.83
130	Audit	Exp.	-	21,500.00	-	21,500.00	21,000.00	500.00	-	500.00
132	Reserve	Transfers	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00
134	Actuarial	Expenses	-	7,000.00	-	7,000.00	7,000.00	-	-	-
135	Accountant	Salaries	-	89,921.00	-	89,921.00	85,976.42	3,944.58	-	3,944.58
		Expenses	-	1,230.00	-	1,230.00	513.55	716.45	-	716.45
			-	91,151.00	-	91,151.00	86,489.97	4,661.03	-	4,661.03
137	Central Purch.	Expenses	9.08	295,000.00	(28,659.55)	266,349.53	250,766.84	15,582.69	-	15,582.69
141	Assessors	Salaries	-	86,601.00	-	86,601.00	83,291.15	3,309.85	-	3,309.85
		Expenses	-	12,335.00	-	12,335.00	10,990.90	1,344.10	-	1,344.10
		Revaluation	-	29,600.00	-	29,600.00	15,900.00	13,700.00	13,700.00	-
			-	128,536.00	-	128,536.00	110,182.05	18,353.95	13,700.00	4,653.95
146	Treas/Collector	Salaries	-	146,020.00	(5,335.00)	140,685.00	130,540.20	10,144.80	-	10,144.80
		Expenses	593.20	19,090.00	5,260.00	24,943.20	21,140.32	3,802.88	-	3,802.88
	Tax Title	Expenses	-	10,000.00	170,075.00	180,075.00	32,343.82	147,731.18	147,731.18	-
			593.20	175,110.00	170,000.00	345,703.20	184,024.34	161,678.86	147,731.18	13,947.68
						-		-		-
151	Laws & Claims	Salaries	-	39,600.00	(8,093.30)	31,506.70	31,506.70	-	-	-
		Contract	-	10,400.00	11,348.21	21,748.21	21,748.21	-	-	-
			-	50,000.00	3,254.91	53,254.91	53,254.91	-	-	-
155	Computer Maint.	Expenses	7,608.00	63,742.00	2,530.44	73,880.44	73,880.44	-	-	-
161	Town Clerk	Salaries	-	82,575.00	(2,775.00)	79,800.00	77,089.41	2,710.59	-	2,710.59
		Expenses	-	1,350.00	(125.00)	1,225.00	760.15	464.85	-	464.85
			-	83,925.00	(2,900.00)	81,025.00	77,849.56	3,175.44	-	3,175.44

TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FY15 APPROPRIATION REPORT

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2014	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2016	Ending Balance
162	Elections & Reg	Salaries	-	14,000.00	2,306.42	16,306.42	15,971.64	334.78	-	334.78
		Expenses	-	11,000.00	593.58	11,593.58	9,747.50	1,846.08	1,350.00	496.08
			-	25,000.00	2,900.00	27,900.00	25,719.14	2,180.86	1,350.00	830.86
171	Conservation	Salaries	-	26,000.00	(18.93)	25,981.07	24,830.72	1,150.35	-	1,150.35
		Expenses	-	1,500.00	18.93	1,518.93	1,518.93	-	-	-
			-	27,500.00	(0.00)	27,500.00	26,349.65	1,150.35	-	1,150.35
175	Planning Board	Salaries	-	96,913.00	412.80	97,325.80	97,318.76	7.04	-	7.04
		Expenses	-	4,700.00	(412.80)	4,287.20	2,477.31	1,809.89	-	1,809.89
			-	101,613.00	-	101,613.00	99,796.07	1,816.93	-	1,816.93
192	Building	Custodian	-	9,884.00	-	9,884.00	9,214.27	669.73	-	669.73
		Expenses	2,292.12	54,000.00	(411.41)	55,880.71	38,153.86	17,726.85	-	17,726.85
			2,292.12	63,884.00	(411.41)	65,764.71	47,368.13	18,396.58	-	18,396.58
193	Memorial Hall	Custodian	-	10,394.00	-	10,394.00	9,948.43	445.57	-	445.57
		Expenses	-	15,410.00	135.00	15,545.00	15,183.97	361.03	-	361.03
		Bldg. Maint.	-	2,300.00	(135.00)	2,165.00	919.95	1,245.05	-	1,245.05
			-	28,104.00	-	28,104.00	26,052.35	2,051.65	-	2,051.65
195	Town Reports	Expenditures	-	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	-	1,250.00
210	Police	Salaries	-	1,954,215.00	(11,799.00)	1,942,416.00	1,911,032.60	31,383.40	-	31,383.40
		Expenses	407.38	53,450.00	4,000.00	57,857.38	57,224.36	633.02	-	633.02
		Contract Serv.	-	54,900.00	18,000.00	72,900.00	72,150.37	749.63	-	749.63
		Utilities	-	300.00	-	300.00	240.00	60.00	-	60.00
		Cruisers	-	79,500.00	-	79,500.00	65,787.00	13,713.00	-	13,713.00
			407.38	2,142,365.00	10,201.00	2,152,973.38	2,106,434.33	46,539.05	-	46,539.05
215	Police Station	Salaries	-	30,000.00	(16,200.00)	13,800.00	8,190.00	5,610.00	-	5,610.00
		Expenses	-	64,037.00	16,200.00	80,237.00	60,818.07	19,418.93	19,406.58	12.35
			-	94,037.00	-	94,037.00	69,008.07	25,028.93	19,406.58	5,622.35
220	Forest Warden	Salaries	-	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	2,499.96	0.04	-	0.04
		Expenses	-	100.00	-	100.00	-	100.00	-	100.00
			-	2,600.00	-	2,600.00	2,499.96	100.04	-	100.04
241	Building Inspec.	Salaries	-	53,244.00	1,146.41	54,390.41	54,390.41	-	-	-
		Expenses	-	735.00	(735.00)	-	-	-	-	-
			-	53,979.00	411.41	54,390.41	54,390.41	-	-	-

TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FY15 APPROPRIATION REPORT

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2014	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2016	Ending Balance
244	Sealer	Salaries	-	2,750.00	0.04	2,750.04	2,750.04	-	-	-
		Expenses	-	250.00	(0.04)	249.96	245.18	4.78	-	4.78
			-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	2,995.22	4.78	-	4.78
291	Civil Defense	Salaries	-	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	3,999.96	0.04	-	0.04
		Expenditures	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	215.97	784.03	784.03	-
			-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	4,215.93	784.07	784.03	0.04
292	Dog Officer	Salaries	-	25,500.00	12,058.00	37,558.00	35,642.69	1,915.31	1,867.16	48.15
		Expenses	-	7,450.00	2,150.00	9,600.00	8,434.35	1,165.65	968.64	197.01
			-	32,950.00	14,208.00	47,158.00	44,077.04	3,080.96	2,835.80	245.16
293	Animal Insp.	Salaries	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	-	-
294	Forestry	Expenses	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	21,962.50	3,037.50	-	3,037.50
310	Schools	Salaries	1,781,087.02	11,023,062.00	(269,820.69)	12,534,328.33	10,738,059.91	1,796,268.42	1,796,268.42	-
		Expenses	150,000.00	4,077,023.00	269,820.69	4,496,843.69	4,328,105.62	168,738.07	168,738.07	0.00
			1,931,087.02	15,100,085.00	-	17,031,172.02	15,066,165.53	1,965,006.49	1,965,006.49	0.00
320	Pathfinder	Assessment	-	1,835,518.00	-	1,835,518.00	1,815,304.09	20,213.91	-	20,213.91
423	Snow & Ice	Overtime	-	32,000.00	62,820.11	94,820.11	94,820.11	-	-	-
		Supplies	-	178,000.00	256,667.07	434,667.07	534,667.07	(100,000.00)	-	(100,000.00)
			-	210,000.00	319,487.18	529,487.18	629,487.18	(100,000.00)	-	(100,000.00)
424	Street Lights	Expenses	-	115,000.00	13,000.00	128,000.00	125,761.50	2,238.50	-	2,238.50
425	Railroad Crossing	Expenses	-	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00
433	Waste Removal	Expenses	-	20,600.00	2,500.00	23,100.00	22,242.97	857.03	-	857.03
435	Ground Water	Expenses	16,340.00	17,200.00	-	33,540.00	16,340.00	17,200.00	16,890.00	310.00
490	Public Works	Salaries	1,123.57	746,595.00	(10,321.20)	737,397.37	682,649.04	54,748.33	-	54,748.33
		Admin. Exp.	3,766.24	61,650.00	(17,000.18)	48,416.06	43,822.52	4,593.54	1,575.00	3,018.54
		Maint. Exp.	31.00	143,900.00	9,221.20	153,152.20	147,242.38	5,909.82	156.25	5,753.57
		Utilities	-	16,000.00	2,600.00	18,600.00	17,945.24	654.76	87.04	567.72
		Capital	-	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	-	6,000.00
			4,920.81	974,145.00	(15,500.18)	963,565.63	891,659.18	71,906.45	1,818.29	70,088.16

TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FY15 APPROPRIATION REPORT

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2014	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2016	Ending Balance
491	Other Capital	Capital	-	43,000.00	-	43,000.00	42,841.39	158.61	-	158.61
510	BOH	Salaries	-	61,128.00	-	61,128.00	61,117.76	10.24	-	10.24
		Expenses	-	2,600.00	-	2,600.00	2,532.23	67.77	-	67.77
			-	63,728.00	-	63,728.00	63,649.99	78.01	-	78.01
523	Human Services	Expenses	-	1,500.00	500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	-
541	COA	Salaries	-	128,448.00	175.00	128,623.00	128,419.78	203.22	-	203.22
		Expenses	-	2,460.00	(175.00)	2,285.00	2,159.12	125.88	-	125.88
			-	130,908.00	-	130,908.00	130,578.90	329.10	-	329.10
543	Veterans	Salaries	-	28,327.00	1.00	28,328.00	28,327.53	0.47	-	0.47
		Expenses	-	1,500.00	(488.07)	1,011.93	542.07	469.86	-	469.86
		Misc. & Ben.	-	336,000.00	23,535.27	359,535.27	359,535.27	-	-	-
			-	365,827.00	23,048.20	388,875.20	388,404.87	470.33	-	470.33
610	Library	Salaries	-	402,909.00	(44,150.14)	358,758.86	358,758.86	-	-	-
		Expenses	-	316,571.00	44,150.14	360,721.14	360,721.14	-	-	-
			-	719,480.00	-	719,480.00	719,480.00	-	-	-
630	Recreation	Salaries	-	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	16,025.83	3,974.17	-	3,974.17
		Expenses	-	8,000.00	-	8,000.00	6,496.43	1,503.57	1,250.00	253.57
			-	28,000.00	-	28,000.00	22,522.26	5,477.74	1,250.00	4,227.74
692	Memorial Day	Expenses	-	2,500.00	(174.00)	2,326.00	2,325.99	0.01	-	0.01
710	Debt Principal		-	793,160.00	519,100.00	1,312,260.00	1,312,259.20	0.80	-	0.80
751	Debt Interest		-	541,140.00	(4,100.00)	537,040.00	530,177.07	6,862.93	-	6,862.93
910	County Retirem.	Assessment	-	1,287,409.00	-	1,287,409.00	1,287,409.00	-	-	-
913	Unemployment		-	40,000.00	3,000.00	43,000.00	42,961.37	38.63	-	38.63
914	Group Health Ins		-	4,457,188.00	(8,000.00)	4,449,188.00	3,821,232.24	627,955.76	92,668.11	535,287.65
915	Group Life Ins.		-	13,247.00	-	13,247.00	10,974.60	2,272.40	-	2,272.40
919	Medicare		-	235,000.00	-	235,000.00	206,490.20	28,509.80	-	28,509.80

TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FY15 APPROPRIATION REPORT

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2014	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2016	Ending Balance
945	Gen. Ins.	Misc.	-	400,000.00	5,000.00	405,000.00	404,486.44	513.56	-	513.56
950	Stabilization Fund	CIP	-	-	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	-	-	-
970	Transfers Out	Misc.	-	-	114,000.00	114,000.00	114,000.00	-	-	-
Total General			1,973,733.61	31,190,005.00	1,232,695.00	34,396,433.61	31,398,561.10	2,997,872.51	2,264,570.06	733,302.45
Chery Sheet Assessments				-	430,537.00	430,537.00	583,545.00	(153,008.00)		
Intergovernmental - MWPAT				-	-	-	161,632.41	(161,632.41)		
Adj Ecumbrance				-	1,973,733.61	-	-	-		
Adj										
Adjusted W/S Total				31,190,005.00	3,636,965.61	34,826,970.61	32,143,738.51	2,683,232.10		
Munis Report				31,190,005.00	3,636,965.61	34,826,970.61	32,143,738.51	2,683,232.10		
Difference				-	-	-	-	-		
443	WWTP	Salaries	-	612,482.00	(40,000.00)	572,482.00	559,064.45	13,417.55	-	13,417.55
		Expenses	1,424.50	882,564.00	90,000.00	973,988.50	870,049.20	103,939.30	55,378.00	48,561.30
		Sewer Maint	-	102,096.00	(16,000.00)	86,096.00	74,218.31	11,877.69	-	11,877.69
		Capital	60,000.00	276,000.00	26,000.00	362,000.00	340,920.93	21,079.07	8,070.00	13,009.07
		Admin Alloc	-	-	-	-	92,626.00	(92,626.00)	-	(92,626.00)
			61,424.50	1,873,142.00	60,000.00	1,994,566.50	1,936,878.89	57,687.61	63,448.00	(5,760.39)
710	Debt Principal		-	268,160.00	-	268,160.00	268,159.20	0.80	-	0.80
751	Debt Interest		-	182,840.00	-	182,840.00	90,897.12	91,942.88	-	91,942.88
910	County Retirem.	Assessment	-	97,185.00	-	97,185.00	97,184.00	1.00	-	1.00
913	Unemployment		-	1,050.00	(1,000.00)	50.00	-	50.00	-	50.00
914	Group Health Ins		-	115,000.00	1,000.00	116,000.00	107,871.04	8,128.96	8,012.62	116.34
915	Group Life Ins.		-	318.00	-	318.00	252.00	66.00	-	66.00
919	Medicare		-	8,209.00	-	8,209.00	8,694.36	(485.36)	-	(485.36)
945	Gen. Ins.	Misc.	-	32,319.00	-	32,319.00	18,168.00	14,151.00	-	14,151.00
Total WWTP			61,424.50	2,578,223.00	60,000.00	2,699,647.50	2,528,104.61	171,542.89	71,460.62	100,082.27

TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FY15 APPROPRIATION REPORT

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2014	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2016	Ending Balance
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**Total General + WWTP
Budget**

2,035,158.11	33,768,228.00	1,292,695.00	37,096,081.11	33,926,665.71	3,169,415.40	2,336,030.68	833,384.72
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Chery Sheet Assessments	-	430,537.00	430,537.00	583,545.00	(153,008.00)
Intergovernmental - MWPAT	-	-	-	161,632.41	(161,632.41)
Adj	-	2,035,158.11	-	-	-
Ecumbrance	-	2,035,158.11	-	-	-
Adj	-	2,035,158.11	-	-	-
Adjusted W/S Total	33,768,228.00	3,758,390.11	37,526,618.11	34,671,843.12	2,854,774.99
Munis Report	33,768,228.00	3,758,390.11	37,526,618.11	34,671,843.12	2,854,774.99
Difference	-	-	-	-	-

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

From July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, the Palmer Police Department answered approximately 19,956 calls for service, which included 1,172 medical related calls. From these calls, 2,272 criminal offenses were recorded and investigated. Additionally, 939 individuals were arrested and /or summoned to court. More than 3,078 traffic citations were issued for 3,492 violations. There were 306 traffic crashes, involving 501 operators, resulting in injuries to 131 individuals. There was one fatal crash reported during this period. A complete statistical report of the year's activity follows this report.

The department is currently comprised of 20 full time and 4 part time police officers, in addition to 7 full time and 7 part time civilian members.

On February 1, 2015, Chief Robert P. Frydryk retired from the police department. Chief Frydryk had a remarkable career, which spanned more than 38 years. His career path included the following events:

Auxiliary Police Officer – 1997
Permanent Intermittent Police Officer – July 1, 1979
Permanent Full-Time Police Officer – January 14, 1980
Police Sergeant – June 6, 1983
Acting Chief of Police – July 1, 1995
Chief of Police – November 12, 1997
Retirement – February 1, 2015

Everyone here at the police department wishes Chief Frydryk a long, healthy and happy retirement.

The department received the following grants during this reporting period:

Traffic Enforcement Grant (Highway Safety Division) - \$10,000 was awarded to target speed, seat belt, red light, drunk driving and other violations in the following HSD mobilizations: Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, Distracted Driving and Click It or Ticket.

9-1-1 Training Grant (State 911 Department) - \$12,463 was awarded. Through this program, governmental entities hosting primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are eligible to receive reimbursement for training related costs associated with the 9-1-1 system. Awards are based on a rounded formula of 9-1-1 calls received and population served.

PSAP Support and Incentive Grant (State 911 Department) - \$37,776 awarded. The purpose of the State 911 Department Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) Support and Incentive Grant is to assist PSAPs and regional emergency centers in providing enhanced 911 services and to encourage the development of regional PSAPs, regional secondary PSAPs and regional emergency communication centers.

I would like to thank members of our community for their continued support and encouragement, and the members of the Police Department for their service and dedication to our community. I would also like to thank Town Council President Barbara Barry and all of the council members

for their ongoing support and dedication, and a special thank you to Town Manager Charles Blanchard, for his assistance and support.

I am also grateful to the town's fire departments and fire chiefs, Acting DPW Director Rudy Pisarczyk and his staff, and all of the other town officials and staff members for their assistance and cooperation throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

John J. Janulewicz
Interim Chief of Police

OFFENSES (IBR) BY MONTH – FY 2015

OFFENSE (IBR)	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTALS
ARSON											1		1
ASSAULT AGGRAVATED	8	5	5	8	4	3	6	4	4	9	2	9	67
ASSAULT SIMPLE	18	8	11	14	17	17	6	13	15	15	21	15	170
BAD CHECKS			1						5				6
BURGLARY/BREAKING AND ENTERING	5	12	4	4	5	7	6	2	7		9	4	65
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY					5		3	1	3				12
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER					2	1			1				4
DESTRUCTIN / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	7	2	3	4	1	8	5	1	7	9	8	11	66
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	10	8	14	10	16	6	17	8	10	18	18	14	149
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	6	8	11	6	8	6	8	2	6	15	7	15	98
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	16	5	10	3	13	19	10	6	11	17	6	17	133
DRUNKENNESS (PROTECTIVE CUSTODY)	4	6		5	6	6	3	3	4	5	7	6	55
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE	1		2				2		5			2	12
FAMILY OFFENSES, NON-VIOLENT	1			2		2		1			2		8
FORCIBLE FONDLING				3			2						5
FORCIBLE RAPE				1			1	1			1		4
IMPERSONATION	2		1	1			1	2	2	2	2	2	15
INTIMIDATION		6	4	4	1	5	7	4	4	5	4	1	45
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS		1	2	6	7	1	3	1	1	2		2	26
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	1		2	1		1			1	1	1	2	10
PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL	1		1				1	2					5
ROBBERY	2		3	7		1			1			1	15
SHOPLIFTING		1	1	1		1	1		1	3		2	11
STATUTORY RAPE	3			1	1			1					6
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1					1						3	5
THEFT FROM BUILDING		1		2		3	2	2	1	1	1	2	15
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	8	6	5	4	1	1	7	2					34
THEFT OF MV PARTS / ACCESSORIES	3	1	1										5
ALL OTHER LARCENY	13	7	6	7	7	1	4	3	8	4	8	9	77
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	38	50	82	73	61	87	70	31	54	90	102	89	827
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	10	4	4	4		1	1		2		1	5	32
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	1	1	1		1	7	2	5		4		5	27
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	24	27	20	23	17	16	19	15	25	22	37	17	262
TOTAL	183	159	194	194	173	201	187	110	178	222	238	233	2272

PRIMARY ARRESTING OFFENSE (IBR) BY MONTH – FY 2015

ARRESTING OFFENSE (IBR)	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
ASSAULT AGGRAVATED	2	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	6	1	6	27
ASSAULT SIMPLE	8	6	6	8	11	17	2	7	7	6	10	6	94
BAD CHECKS						1							1
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING						1	2	1	1				5
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	1				1	1							3
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER					1								1
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	4	1	1			2	1		1	1	1		12
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	5	4	6	5	4	4	7	4	3	4	6	3	55
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	5	7	8	4	6	4	7	2	5	14	6	12	80
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	3	3	8		13	10	5	3	2	4	1	6	58
DRUNKENNESS (PROTECTIVE CUSTODY)	4	6		5	6	6	3	3	4	5	7	6	55
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE	1			1					3		1		6
FAMILY OFFENSES NON-VIOLENT						1							1
INTIMIDATION		2	1	1	1	1		1		1			8
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS			2	3	2		1		1			1	10
PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL			1										1
ROBBERY			1					1		1			3
SHOPLIFTING		1	1	1		1	1		2	2		2	11
STATUTORY RAPE	1												1
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES						1						1	2
THEFT FROM BUILDING		1					1	1					3
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE				1			1						2
THEFT OF M/V PARTS / ACCESSORIES		1											1
ALL OTHER LARCENY	3	2			3		2	1			1	1	13
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	14	15	27	31	20	31	21	11	18	27	39	26	280
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	6	2	3	3		1						2	17
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	16	21	16	14	12	11	13	12	19	15	22	13	184
TOTAL	73	74	84	78	84	95	69	48	67	86	96	85	939

OFFENSES (IN ARRESTS) BY AGE GROUP – FY 2015

OFFENSES	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	>55	TOTALS
ASSAULT – AGGRAVATED			7	7	11	2	27
ASSAULT – SIMPLE		14	12	30	34	4	94
BAD CHECKS			1				1
BURGLARY / BREAKING & ENTERING		2	1	2			5
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY		1	1		1		3
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER				1			1
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VANDALISM		3	6	3			12
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1	8	10	16	14	6	55
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE		1	20	19	33	7	80
DRUG / NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS		7	22	11	16	2	58
DRUNKENNESS - PROTECTIVE CUSTODY			1	10	31	13	55
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE			2	3	1		6
FAMILY OFFENSES, NON-VIOLENT			1				1
INTIMIDATION		2	1	2	2	1	8
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS			9		1		10
PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL			1				1
ROBBERY			1	1	1		3
STATUTORY RAPE					1		1
SHOPLIFTING		1	2	4	4		11
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES			1	1			2
THEFT FROM BUILDING			1	1	1		3
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE			1	1			2
THEFT OF M/V PARTS/ACCESSORIES				1			1
TRAFFIC / TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES		15	58	85	95	27	280
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY		2	7	3	3	2	17
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS				2	2	1	5
ALL OTHER LARCENY		1	2	4	4	2	13
ALL OTHER OFFENSES		10	37	56	63	18	184
TOTALS	1	67	205	263	318	85	939

WEAPONS INVOLVED IN OFFENSES – FY 2015

WEAPON TYPE	OCCURRENCES	PERCENTAGE
None	1991	87.4%
Personal Weapons (Hands, Feet, Etc.)	169	7.4%
Other	29	1.3%
Knife, Cutting Instrument	24	1.1%
Blunt Object	22	1.0%
Handgun	15	0.7%
Firearm (Unspecified)	9	0.4%
Motor Vehicle	8	0.4%
Unknown	5	0.2%
Rifle	2	0.1%
Shotgun	2	0.1%
Other Firearm	2	0.1%
Total Occurrences	2278	100.0%

REPORT OF THE FOREST FIRE WARDEN

I herewith submit my report as Forest Fire Warden for the Town of Palmer for the period 2014 to 2015.

Incident Type:

	District 1	District 2	District 3
Natural vegetation fire, other:	1	0	0
Brush or brush and grass mixture fires:	6	3	2
Grass fires:	1	0	0
Unauthorized burning:	25	12	6
Authorized controlled burning:	0	0	0

In accordance with State Law, the Open Burning season will begin on January 15th, and end at 4:00 PM on May 1st. These dates are set by the Department of Environmental Protection with the objective of minimizing air quality impacts, and are enforced locally by the town Forest Wardens, Fire Chiefs, and your Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) District Fire Wardens. I would like to thank the residents who adhere to the Open Burning Regulation. This adherence is in direct correlation to the low incidents of out of control brush and forest fires and minimizing air quality impacts within our community.

I would like to thank Fire Educators Laurie Rocco and Penny McCarthy for providing fire prevention education in the schools and at local and regional events. I would also like to thank our Firefighters and Officers for their response, Fire Chiefs Scott Turner – Three Rivers Fire Department and Chief Scott Gustafson – Bondsville Fire Department, neighboring fire departments for providing mutual aid, Town Manager Charles Blanchard, Town Council, Palmer Police Department, and the Central Emergency Dispatchers for their assistance and cooperation provided during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan J. Roy Forest Fire Warden

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highway – Parks – Cemetery - Wastewater

The Palmer Department of Public Works herewith submits its annual report for 2015.

A number of streets within the town were milled and resurfaced. They include:

- Sykes St. (Route 181) Palmer from Fletcher Street to Palmer Road intersection
- Route 181 from Dutton's Bridge over the Ware River to Pine Street Bondsville
- Springfield Street Three Rivers from New Hampshire Avenue to Anderson Avenue Three Rivers
- Palmer Road from Route 181 Bridge at Palmer Street to Palmer Street/Calkins Road intersection
- Reclaiming, fine grading and blacktopping Foster St Bondsville
- Reclaiming, fine grading and blacktopping Mt. Dumplin Road Palmer
- Reclaiming, fine grading and blacktopping a section of Peterson Road Palmer

Also, drainage improvements were made to a section of Bourneside St. Three Rivers.

All of this work was accomplished using Chapter 90 funds as the DPW's operating budget could not sustain this amount of work and it is crucial to the town that these funds continue to increase so the town can maintain and improve the road system.

Thirteen snow storms hit our town beginning with a snow and sleet mix on Thanksgiving Eve into Thanksgiving Day. Approximately 82 inches of snow fell between November through March. A total of 2,430 yards of sand and 1,026.6 tons of salt were placed on roads during this time frame. The most significant snow event "Juno" which was registered as a "N'easter" on January 27 & January 28, 2015 dumped 14 inches of snow and cancelled school for two days.

In March we were notified by MaDOT, District 2 advising the town would benefit from the eligibility of the Winter Rapid Assistance Program (WRAP), Emergency Pothole Repair Program and we received notification on our actual funding amounting to \$73,197. This money was allocated for expenditures relating to patching potholes, pavement cracking, surface defects, paving projects, repairing guardrails, storm drains and line painting. A portion of this allocation was used to mill and resurface sections of Berkshire Street and Pinney Street which had been riddled with severe potholes over the winter months. Also the DPW was able to purchase a three ton Falcon Asphalt Hot Patcher to assist with patching potholes.

The DPW has been utilizing the Bay State Roads Program, which are administered by the University of Massachusetts. There are a number of programs, which cover road construction to snow and ice control and have proven to be very helpful.

Through Capital Improvements funds the Park Division was able to purchase a new 2015 4 WD ¾ ton Chevy Silverado Pick Up truck with plow and lift.

The Park Division of the DPW which does snowplowing as well as ground maintenance for the schools were called out numerous times for plowing, sanding and snow removal. Dave Handzel, Superintendent of the Park Division of the DPW and his small crew should be commended for their efforts and hard work striving to make the following areas always look their best: Legion

Field Football Field, Legion Field Baseball Field, Converse School Grounds, PHS-Softball Field, PHS-Practice Field, PHS-Track, PHS-Soccer, PHS-School Grounds, Laviolette-Soccer, Laviolette-General, Burleigh Park, Little League, Burleigh-General, Eager Playground, Hryniewicz Park-Playground, Endleson Playground, Thorndike Mini Park, Thorndike Common, Bondsville Leisure, Palmer Center, Book & Cannon, Depot Park, Water St Field Town Hall and Chase Memorial Field.

Through a grant Eager Park Playground was remodeled this year and received new playground equipment for all the town children and families to enjoy. Endleson Playground is in the process of receiving some much needed improvements. Funds have been allocated to continue this work.

Michael Skowronek Superintendent of the Cemetery Division of the DPW should also be commended for his hard work, effort, responsibilities and pride as caretaker throughout the year to maintain all the town cemeteries to look their best especially for Memorial Day.

At this time I would like to thank all town departments and personnel that have assisted me and the Department of Public Works throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudy Pisarczyk, Acting DPW Director

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

Capital improvements at our facilities and collection system continue on a yearly basis. Fiscal Year 2015 led to the replacement of the original mechanical bar rack at the main treatment plant and replacement of the old stand by generator at pumping station #3.

Our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit enacted in January of 2011 is up for renewal with the permit application due to the USEPA on October 3, 2015. The new permit is expected to be in place by March 31, 2016 when the old permit expires. Anticipated with the new permit application is more stringent nutrient limitations and monitoring requirements for the Town of Palmer.

As the Combined Sewer Separation (CSO) projects have all been completed and the town has met the deadlines for completion, Palmer now has new regulations from the 2003 Draft Permit U.S.EPA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) that pertain to stormwater. The WPCF has become part of the town wide team to tackle these new unfunded mandates. The stormwater sector of the EPA is a powerful unit dedicated to protect the rivers, lake and oceans by the rules outlined in the Clean Water Act.

We continue to work with The Water Planet Company from New London Ct. that specializes in the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus without the large investment for expansion of the treatment plant. As of July 2015 the result have been very positive and cost effective.

The \$6.09 million sewer replacement project for problematic areas of the sewer system has mostly been completed with paving only left to complete project October 2015. The project areas included Sunset Acres in Three Rivers, Brainerd Street and Riverview Parkway areas in Palmer, High Street in Thorndike, and part of South High Street in Bondsville.

I would like to thank my staff at the wastewater treatment plant and the sewer division for their dedication, cooperation, and professionalism that they demonstrate daily.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Skowronek
Superintendent
Palmer Water Pollution Control Facilities

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Introduction

This was a transitional year for the library, as seven full-time staff members and one part-time Page, supplemented by temporary help, maintained library services and programs, and kept the library open all of its normal hours. By the end of the year, four open positions were filled, and the library was poised to move forward with these new full-time staff members, including a permanent Library Director.

Budget

The town appropriated \$719,480.00 for the library's operating budget, a 2.3% increase over the FY2014 budget. In spite of this increase, the amount appropriated required another waiver of the Municipal Appropriation Requirement (\$793,425.00 in FY2015 for Palmer) by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Included in the town's budget appropriation was the amount of \$103,605.00 for purchase of materials for the library's collections. This represented mid-level compliance with the Materials Expenditure Requirement of the MBLC, or 14.4% of the total appropriation.

Personnel

During the year the first 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement was negotiated and implemented between the library and AFSCME, Council 93, the union representing the library's full-time employees with the exception of the Library Director, Assistant Director, and Business

Manager. The union contract took effect 7/1/14, except for the new wage schedule, which took effect 1/1/15.

In July, Michele Soares resigned from her position as Borrower Services Librarian after working for seven years at the library. Library staff and patrons miss Michele's dedication to her work, professional attitude, and outgoing, friendly manner. Helene O'Connor, a 20-year veteran staff member, was promoted to Assistant Director of the library in July, and she was also appointed Interim Director and served in that position until March. Catherine Reed was hired in November as Assistant Youth Services Librarian, and then resigned from this position in April for personal reasons. Library staff and patrons, in particular the young children in her Toddler Play Groups, also miss Cathy's professional, creative, friendly presence. Ben Hood was hired as Adult Services Librarian in January, and then promoted to Library Director on March 1. In April, Joanne Szelag and Richard Clark, Jr. were hired as Adult Services Librarians, and then Rich was shifted into the Assistant Youth Services Librarian position following Cathy Reed's departure. Timothy Hayes was then hired as Adult Services Librarian, completing the year's journey from temporary to full-time permanent staffing with no vacancies.

To assist with desk coverage until the open positions were filled, the library employed temporary help from BiblioTemps, including Anne Miller, Ben Hood, Cindy Kowalczyk, Catherine Reed, Michelle LaRose, and Richard Clark, Jr. Library staff and patrons were very fortunate to have this professional, hard-working group of temporary employees picking up the slack at the public service desks for most of the year.

The library's 21 volunteers continued to assist with the many tasks that make a big difference in processing materials and providing excellent library service. The volunteers worked a total of 670.2 hours during the year. In March, the library presented Beverly Russell with an award for logging her 2,000th hour as a volunteer.

Board of Directors

The library lost two of its best friends this year. Walter Haggerty died suddenly on November 29, 2014, while supervising the installation of holiday wreaths. Walter was a leader among the library trustees since the mid-1960s, and he was one of the first emeritus trustees. Among many other important contributions, Walter co-chaired both committees that oversaw the expansion and renovation of the library in 1976-1977 and 1999-2005. The loss of Walter was a great blow to the library and to the Board of Directors. Donations to the library in Walter's memory have been used to purchase a unique item of local interest that will go on permanent display in the library during the coming year.

Equally tragic for the library was the death of Patricia Donovan on June 3, 2015. Pat Donovan had been a trustee for over 50 years, and was also one of the first trustees to be given emeritus status. She was a tireless member of the Friends of the Palmer Public Library, devoting many years to organizing library events, supporting library projects, and operating the Library Loft Used Book Store on Park Street to raise money in support of the library. It was fitting that in April the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce honored Pat as Citizen of the Year for 2015. Continuing her service to the library even beyond the end of her life, Pat requested that all the

donations in her memory be used to purchase materials for the children's collection.

At the annual meeting in October, several new members were elected to the Board of Directors: Gloria Byrnes, Julie Manning, and Cynthia Melcher. The Board benefits greatly from the involvement of these new members, who are providing new energy and different perspectives on how to improve and enhance library service to our community.

Library Association

At the annual meeting, the Palmer Public Library Association presented Sandra Noonan with the Mary M. McManus Award, in recognition of the difference she has made for Palmer youth as a long-time teacher at Converse Middle School and an active member of the community. The Association also honored Chester Topor, a former president of the library's Board of Directors and a generous supporter of the library, with the Robert M. Sullivan Award, recognizing his commitment to supporting the mission of the library.

Friends of the Library

With funds earned through book sales at the Library Loft Used Book Store on Park Street, the Friends of the Palmer Public Library provide financial support for summer reading, and youth and adult programming, landscaping projects at the library, the design and production of the quarterly *Seasons* newsletter, and the purchase of equipment and furnishings for the library. This year, in memory of Linda Perry, the Friends donated attractive new signs to display call numbers on the ends of the book stacks in the Youth Room.

The Friends also make donations to other community organizations, including Top Floor Learning, the Yellow House, the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, Palmer Events Planning, and the Palmer Youth Basketball Team. The Friends also sponsor the Pioneer Valley Library Legislative Breakfasts, and pay for membership in Western Massachusetts Library Advocates.

The assistance of the Friends, both financially and as strong library supporters, contributes greatly to the success of the Palmer Public Library as an educational and cultural asset to the town.

Patron Use of the Library

Number of registered borrowers	8,549
Total attendance at library	79,377
Items received from other libraries for our patrons	14,511
Items provided to other libraries for their patrons	18,810
<i>Library materials borrowed by our patrons:</i>	
Books	67,611
Print magazines & newspapers	2,622
Audio (CDs, Playaways, etc.)	12,414

Video (DVDs, VHS)	38,249
Ebooks	3,363
Downloadable audio (books, music, etc.)	773
Downloadable video	23
Materials in electronic format (CD-ROMs)	1,486
Miscellaneous (kits, puppets, etc.)	282
TOTAL	126,823
Number of reference transactions	11,947
Number of users of public wireless access	8,304

Collections

Matthew DeCara added 150 PlayStation and Xbox games to the YA collection. This has proved to be a very popular new addition to the library's holdings. Amy Golenski reorganized and created new promotional materials for the library's collection of museum passes, which had the effect of making this valuable collection much more accessible and heavily used. Two passes to the Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens were raffled each month during the winter and spring.

<i>Library holdings by type of material:</i>	
Books	53,821
Volumes of print magazines & newspapers	2,398
Audio (CDs, Playaways, etc.)	7,640
Video (DVDs, VHS)	6,171
Ebooks	30,858
Downloadable audio (books, music, etc.)	7,902
Downloadable video	1,167
Materials in electronic format (CD-ROMs)	240
Microfilm	207
Miscellaneous (kits, puppets, etc.)	149
TOTAL	110,553

Programming

Stephanie Maher, Youth Services Librarian, offered Story Hour for Three and Four Year Olds, and Toddler Playgroup for One and Two Year Olds. Cathy Reed, Assistant Youth Services Librarian, started a second Toddler Play Group for One & Two Year Olds.

Matthew DeCara introduced a new group for teen fans of tabletop role-playing games (RPG) and storytelling. The RPG Club meets regularly, right before the Anime Club, which has been meeting since February 2014.

During the Summer Reading Program, Youth Services hosted performers to entertain and educate children, including the Tanglewood Marionettes, magician Peter Boie, storyteller and minstrel Mary Jo Maichack, a dinosaur fossil program from the Boston Science Museum, the Toe Jam Puppet Band, and Bubbleologist Keith Michael Johnson.

The library hosted many other children's programs during the year: Halloween Harvest; a Gingerbread House Workshop; Pajama Story Time; and a Winter Drop-in Story Time.

Adult programs included:

- readings and book signings with Don Duffy, author of *The Quaboag and Nipmuck Indians*; and Suzanne Strempek Shea, author of *Make a Wish But Not for Money* and *This is Paradise* (the presentation included Mags Riordan, subject of the latter book);
- a slide presentation by J. R. Greene, who also signed copies of his latest Quabbin book and calendar;
- a Pastel Workshop with Greg Maichack;
- a presentation about backpacking the Pacific Crest Trail by Wendy Johnson;
- the 11th Annual Palmer Public Library Poetry Pageant;
- a group discussion led by Ken Dolan-Del Vecchio, therapist and author of *The Pet Loss Companion*.

In January Ashley Erickson and Amy Golenski initiated Mobile Device OverDrive Training sessions to assist patrons with using the library's large collection of ebooks. Since January, patrons have been encouraged to schedule appointments to receive individual assistance.

For the second year in a row, the library offered the popular Blind Date with a Book during February. The Wicked Wednesday Mystery Book Club continued to meet from fall to spring.

Number of children's programs	72
Attendance at children's programs	2,142
Number of young adult programs	65
Attendance at young adult programs	545
Number of adult programs	24
Attendance at adult programs	485

Meeting Spaces

The library's three meeting rooms were used 847 times during the year, excluding library staff and Board meetings.

The Community Room also serves as an exhibition space for art, scheduled monthly by Denise Fontaine-Pincince. Among the exhibits during the year: art by the clients of Sunshine Village in Three Rivers; art work made in the "Art with Poetry" project at Palmer High School; a Mixed

Media exhibition by Palmer High School Art students; and an exhibit of works by artists from the Palmer Senior Center.

Charitable Work

The library engaged in a number of charitable endeavors to support community organizations:

- hosting American Red Cross Blood Drives in October and June;
- collecting wrapping paper during a Wrapping Paper Drive, and gathering 64 pairs of pajamas during a Pajama Donation Drive, both for BirthdayWishes.org;
- supporting Palmer Food Share with 47 hats, scarves, and pairs of gloves or mittens donated to a Mitten Tree, and 410 lbs. of food given during a Food for Fines Drive;
- serving as a collection point for the Palmer Lions Club Toy Drive;
- contributing to the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center's Tree & Wreath Festival raffle with a "Noveltree" made from stacked books, and a wreath made from book pages.

Fundraising and Donations

Stephen King Lander donated a portrait of his great grandfather, Dr. Aaron King, farmer and physician who lived most of his adult life in Palmer, served in the state Senate and is buried in Oak Knoll Cemetery. The library plans to place the portrait on permanent display in a prominent location on the first floor.

Amy Golenski organized the library's participation in the December Valley Gives Day, which raised \$1,693.00 for the library from many donors.

Other Organizations at the Library

The library continues to be home to River East School-to-Career, a nonprofit business and education partnership that places students in work-based learning experiences at local companies.

The library is also home to Top Floor Learning, a nonprofit adult literacy organization that provides basic adult education services, including HiSET preparation and testing, an ESL program, citizenship preparation, and basic computer literacy instruction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Benjamin R. Hood
Library Director

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Enrollment in the three schools continues to decline. Currently, Old Mill Pond School has an enrollment of 603 students in grades PreK – 4. Converse Middle School's enrollment is 368 for grades 5 – 7. As of June 30, 2013, Palmer High School serves 485 students between grades 8 – 12.

Palmer High School

In a recent report by US News and World revealed that Palmer High School is ranked #49 out of 352 high schools in the State of Massachusetts when it comes to postsecondary preparedness. Out of a total of over 29,000 schools that were reviewed, the Palmer High School came in as #1,363 nationally. The community has much to be proud of in the education they are providing for our students.

The class of 2014 received their diplomas on June 3rd at Legion Field. Seventy Six seniors matriculated with 85% attending either a 4-year or a 2-year college. The top twenty seniors in the class were honored and recognized by the Palmer Rotary Club at the annual Student Achievement Luncheon. The Rotary presented four scholarships, two \$1000.00 scholarships and two \$500.00 scholarships at the luncheon. Seniors were rewarded for their years of hard work, effort, and academic success at the Annual Awards and Scholarship Night where over \$52,000.00 was awarded in scholarships. Fifty-four different local families, organizations, and businesses presented 114 individual scholarships to 38 of our seniors. Academic and athletic awards were presented to seniors and underclassmen during the Annual Class Day Ceremony, held on June 5th. We sincerely appreciate the generosity extended to our seniors by the numerous individuals, families, and organizations of Palmer.

One hundred percent (100%) of the graduating class received a competency determination requirement established by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to receive a diploma. During the 2014-2015 school year, the Palmer High School was designated a level 3 school by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education based on the 2013-2014 MCAS results. The 2013-2014 MCAS Results are as follows: 88% of the 8th grade and 98% of the 10th grade passed the ELA portion of the MCAS, 77% and 92% of the students respectfully were in the proficient or the advanced categories. In Math 66 % of 8th graders and 97% of the 10th graders passed the MCAS, with 31% and 89% receiving advanced or proficient scores respectfully. On the Science and Technology MCAS 82% of the 8th grade passed the Science MCAS with 33 % receiving advanced or proficient scores. In the 9th grade, 90% of the students passed the Introduction to Physics MCAS with 71% of the students receiving advanced or proficient scores.

The Advanced Placement Program continues to grow and flourish at Palmer High School, thanks to the partnership forged with the Mass. Math and Science Initiative (MMSI). Our AP Math, Science, and English classes received additional support and record number of students enrolling in AP courses. Palmer High School had 126 students out of 184 take the corresponding AP Exams. Of these, 40% obtained a college credit grade on the exam. The grant offered teacher

training by the College Board familiarizing our teachers with AP curriculum, advanced instructional practices, and current technologies.

Participation in the Gateway to College program at Holyoke Community College provided eight students, who were at risk for dropping out, with the opportunity to complete their High School Diploma as well as acquire college credits. Two of our Gateway to College students graduated, accumulating college credits. This was the third year of its implementation and we look forward to our continuing partnership. Through our School-to-Career Program in partnership with the River East School-to-Career Program, we provided the opportunity for work based experiences for 45 upperclassmen. It is our goal that, prior to graduation, every junior and senior will have the opportunity to experience an externship in their chosen field. Our students were able to gain hands-on experiences in the field of teaching, medical, broadcasting, legal, business, transportation, photography and veterinary services. We continue to expand and appreciate our partnerships with local businesses. They are an integral part of our success.

Palmer High hosted a myriad of events and celebrations, September Open House for parents, PHS Community Night, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Lions Club Speech Contest, John and Abigail Adams breakfast, Spirit Week with the culmination of ABC Honor Roll Live, and the student drama production of “Almost Perfect” talent show. In honor of College and Career Awareness Month in October, we sponsored a College Fair in conjunction with a myriad of activities that focused on college, military, trade schools and career readiness, 105 schools shared information about their Colleges and Universities with the juniors and seniors. We offered a second semester Open House in January. For the fifth year, a team of Palmer High School students competed in “As Schools Match Wits”. Our Music Department performed at various events throughout the year: Eastern States Exposition, the Fall Concert, Festival of Bands and Choruses in December, the QVMEA Concert hosted here at Palmer High School, the Spring Concert, and the Memorial Day Parade. We sent four representatives, two each, to the Massachusetts Boys and Girls State for 2012 hosted by Stone Hill College. The Palmer High School hosted the Step Up Day for our incoming 7th graders. In strengthening our bond with the senior community, PHS celebrated National Grandparents/Grand Friend week with visitation to classrooms, and hosted a Grandparents/Grand Friend Thanksgiving luncheon and was entertained with a concert in the auditorium.

In partnership with the Country Bank for Savings, Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School, and the Palmer High School welcomed former Boston Celtics Point Guard Chris Herren to speak with the students and community members about his struggle with substance abuse and his will to make something more from his tragic past. He spoke with the community at large regarding students’ self-respect and self-worth and the need to reach out in times of distress and hopelessness. We would like to thank Country Bank for making this partnership and presentation a priority for our students at the Palmer High School. As a direct result from Mr. Herren’s powerful message, students, faculty at PHS, and community members have continued to foster open conversations and dialogue to help spread awareness and community among each other.

Our Palmer High School Faculty is comprised of dedicated, passionate and knowledgeable educators who go above and beyond in the service of PHS students. Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, two of our cherished educators were recognized for their superb efforts. Mr. Shawn

Gersbach was awarded the Quaboag Hills Choice Awards Teacher of the Year and Mrs. Olga Lopez was awarded the coveted Harold Grinspoon Pioneer Valley Teacher of the Year.

Several of the athletic teams achieved milestones for the 2014-2015 school year under the leadership of Mr. Peter Farr. The Boys' and Girls' Soccer Teams, Boys' Basketball Team, Individual swimmers qualified for Western Mass. and States, Individuals for Boy's Track qualified for States, Girls Softball Team, and the Tennis Team all qualified for post season play! The Golf Team came in second in Western Mass.

The Palmer United Booster Club and the Music Boosters were very active during the year. There were several fundraisers conducted, as well as recognition banquets for the student athletes and music students. Special thanks are extended to the members of both clubs for their time, hard work, and creative ideas for the benefit of the student body!

The 2014-2015 Palmer High School Council worked collaboratively with administration to incorporate the Superintendent's District Wide Goals as part of the three-year school improvement plan that serves to compel the school in the decision-making process. This plan starts and ends with the Palmer High School goals for student learning. All school initiatives and priorities continue to focus on preparing our students "for living, learning, and working in the 21st Century". The composition of the Council consisted of: Mary Lou Callahan, Principal; Olga Lopez, Jennifer Martin, Meg Pash, Staff Members; Officer Whalers, and Erin Pincince, Community Representatives; Andrea Mastalerz, Jacqui Mastriani, Janice McCoy and Catherine Reed, Parent Representatives; Tom Roberts, Student Representative, and Ex-Officio member, Gregory Runyan, Assistant Principal.

We appreciate and applaud the contributions of our staff members, parents, and community members in promoting lifelong learning skills and making a difference in the lives of our students.

Converse Middle School

The 2014-2015 school year was a year of continued growth and commitment to the learning and success of every student in grades five, six, and seven including their success on the MCAS. Students in grade five were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, Math, and Science & Technology/Engineering. Students in grade six were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension and Math, and grade seven students were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, ELA Long Composition and Math. The staff at Converse worked hard to have the students well prepared for their MCAS assessments and the students put forth a serious and focused effort. Converse has maintained a favorable 'Level 2' status as assigned by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Extensive MCAS data analysis was done by the faculty. This data was also reviewed by the CMS Academic Advisory Council and the CMS School Council. The data analysis was utilized to drive instructional changes to support student learning and success. As of this date we have received full preliminary results for the Spring 2015 MCAS ELA and partial preliminary results

for the MCAS Math and Science & Technology/Engineering. Initial ELA data analysis indicates positive student growth.

At Converse we have just completed our second year with a new long block schedule for students. This long block schedule provides 84 minutes of math and ELA every day with science and social studies as one semester courses also at 84 minutes per day. This schedule has almost doubled the math instructional time for every student from 45 to 84 minutes per day.

For the first time at Converse a Student Council was organized with student officers elected from grades 6 and 7 as well as student representatives from each homeroom in the school. The Student Council has been a great addition to the school providing opportunities for student leadership as well as student input into issues affecting the school.

The Cougar's Den after school program has continued to be both a successful and valuable resource to many Converse students. Students have the opportunity to stay for an extended day that provides them with the opportunity for extra help, study centers, as well as a variety of educational and fun learning opportunities. The Cougar's Den staff has been supportive of the learning needs of Converse students in their design of specific math and ELA goals. Funding is a critical issue for this program – they have continued to seek out fundraising and grant opportunities to maintain their level of support to the students. The support of the community has meant a great deal to the Cougar's Den program, Converse students and their families.

The first annual CMS 5K Trot for Technology fundraiser was a great success. This event raised more than \$9,000 for much needed new technology to support student learning and instruction in classrooms. We were able to purchase five (5) computer carts, five (5) projectors, five (5) document cameras and 15 new laptops. We had great support from the community. We are looking forward to the 2nd Annual CMS 5K Trot for technology this fall.

The 2014-2015 CMS School Council worked collaboratively with school administration to support continued school improvements efforts at Converse CMS Student Council. Agenda items included:

- DESE Conditions for School Effectiveness; focusing on Condition III- Aligned Curriculum, Assessment, Condition IV- Effective Instruction, and Condition V- Student Assessment,
- Purchase of a new Grade 5 ELA curriculum program,
- Review/update of the CMS School Improvement Plan,
- Plans for the implementation of the new CMS Student Council,
- Proposed Revisions to the PLC Structure,
- Proposed revisions to the CMS student/staff schedule, and
- Review proposed Student Handbook changes

We would to thank the following members of the CMS School Council for their commitment, dedication and support of Converse: David Stetkiewicz, Chair, Principal, Jolene Masterlerz, Parent, Chris Lee, Parent, Charles Baker, Parent, Ana Dobson, Teacher and Elizabeth O'Brien, Teacher.

Converse was proud to select Mrs. Sheila Browne as the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award winner this past school year. This award recognizes educators for the work they do every day to support student learning. Mrs. Browne certainly exemplifies excellence in her teaching practices and goes above and beyond expectations to support her students, colleagues and the school – a well-deserved congratulations to Mrs. Browne.

The Converse Middle School PTO, under the lead of Mrs. Sheila Browne and Mrs. Lisa Walch has continued to provide significant support to the students and staff. Their fundraising activities have provided significant financial support of student's educational-based field trips, cultural activities and assemblies. The PTO has also continued to support and organize the 'Step-Up' Ceremony for the seventh grade students. Each seventh grade student was presented with a gift of a scientific calculator that should be quite useful to them as they enter eighth grade at Palmer High School. The PTO also supports the Converse Spring Fling each year as well as supporting our Yearbook that is produced each year. There are many parents and volunteers who provide many, many hours of work and support behind the scenes for the PTO and Converse – we cannot thank them enough for their support – it makes a big difference!

Old Mill Pond Elementary School

At Old Mill Pond School, students in grade 3 participated in the MCAS assessment in the areas of Mathematics and Reading for the first time. Students in Grade 4 participated in the MCAS assessment in the areas of Mathematics, Reading, and Long Composition Writing. Because of the unusually harsh winter, the MCAS testing was delayed this year and the full preliminary MCAS results are not available at this time.

First and foremost, it is the Old Mill Pond School Council's undertaking to address both short-term and long-term goals in order to improve the educational quality of our students at *Old Mill Pond Elementary School*. Our plan's practicality reflects an active document which serves as a guide for the future. The school council has addressed, amended and enhanced the document's goals which are aligned with Palmer Public School's District Plan.

The following is a list of some of the activities which have occurred within the Old Mill Pond School during the 2014-2015 school years.

- *Communication through parent newsletters, Connect-Ed, PTO meetings and the school website.*
- *Enhanced behavioral / emotional services for students*
- *Continued Growth of the Family Literacy Program including Inviting Guest Readers in for special Occasions including Read Across America celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday*
- *Literacy Night for families in the spring*
- *Pre-school Evening Art Show*
- *Kindergarten Staggered Entry, Bus Orientation, Visiting Day, and End-of-Year celebration*
- *Curriculum Mapping and Revision incorporating the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy PK - 4*

- *Curriculum Mapping and Revision incorporating the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics PK – 4*
- *Collaboration with the Pioneer Valley District and School Assistance Center to address areas in need of improvement as identified in the Conditions of School Improvement and the Level 3 Status*
- *Site Visits by the Pioneer Valley District and School Assistance Center*
- *Training and implementation of Keys to Literacy the Comprehension Routine, Keys to Literacy the Vocabulary Routine, Handwriting Without Tears, Responsive Classroom, Applied Behavioral Analysis, PBIS, 6+1 Traits Writing, Math Expressions and Restraint Training.*
- *Implementation of school wide character education and violence prevention programs including Peaceful Playground, Second Step Program, Steps to Success Program, Anti-Bullying Education, Character Trait Training, Student Recognition Program and Responsive Classroom.*
- *Implementation of a PBIS Bus Behavior program for all students Grades K – 4 which resulted in recognition and publication in Transportation News Magazines.*
- *Recognition as a “Breakfast of Champions” school in the Spring of 2015 for increasing the number of students who eat breakfast at school daily*
- *Instituted the Walk to Read Framework in Grade 1 through 4*
- *Instituted Team Teaching in Grade 4 which now includes three- two person teams*
- *Trained teachers in Grades K – 2 on the AVMR Math Recovery program designed to assess and assist students in Mathematics*

We would like to thank the following members of our School Council for their commitment and dedication:

Jacqueline Haley, Co-Chair, Principal
 Bonny Rathbone, Co-Chair, Community Representative
 Melissa Edwards, Teacher
 Erica Lavelle, Secretary, Teacher
 Lorraine DiNuovo, Community Representative
 Ray Sikes, Parent
 Lori Duggan, Parent

Old Mill Pond is fortunate to have a very committed and active PTO called OMP PAWS! This group has spearheaded many activities that are aimed at improving the school and the school experience for all students. Some of the activities their fundraising efforts have funded this year are playground beautification, safety buckets for each classroom, fall festival, Santa’s breakfast, Nighttime Recess, field trip bus expense, 4th grade ice cream social, t-shirts, end-of-year certificates, staff appreciation luncheon, staff name plates for every door and a commitment to contribute fundraising towards a new computer lab! This group deserves our heartfelt thanks for continually supporting our students and school.

The Palmer Public School System is dedicated to providing professional development opportunities where the staff at Old Mill Pond School is kept abreast of current educational standards and teaching methods. The core of our evolving curriculum is the continued incorporation of the Common Core state standards as outlined in the current Massachusetts

Curriculum Frameworks. We have solicited the talents and expertise of The Pioneer Valley District Curriculum and Assessment Center to work with the professionals at Old Mill Pond School. Through the District Professional Development funds and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Mass DESE) Grants, faculty have been engaged in a number of professional development activities aimed at improved student learning in literacy and mathematics. Old Mill Pond was once again the recipient of a competitive Literacy Partnership Grant with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The funds from this grant allowed us to purchase high quality materials needed to implement the state's model curriculum units. Additionally, professional development on Ruth Culham's 6 + 1 Traits of Writing was provided by Mrs. Tracy Martineau from the Mass DESE. In the area of Mathematics, Old Mill Pond teachers have been involved in numerous training opportunities. All teachers in Grades K – 4 have received training in Mathematics by Looney Consulting Group, with additional days scheduled in the fall of 2015. Additionally, all teachers received professional development from Houghton Mifflin directly connected to our new math program, Math Expressions. Teachers in Grades K – 2 have also taken the seven day course in math recovery training (AVMR).

Throughout the school, all faculty and staff were involved in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). During the year, the four half-day professional development days were spent determining District Determined Measures (DDMs), participating in PLCs where all staff learned about various educational topics and receiving professional development in the area of math.

During the school year, we have been fortunate to work extensively with members of the Pioneer Valley District and School Assistance Center (DSAC) members including Les Edinson, Christine Shea, Zach Robbins, Rachel Porter, Susan Kazeroid, and Marria Carrington. This team has spent hours at OMP conducting site visits, participating in data analysis of MCAS results, participating in the PLC Continuation Project, and fine tuning our Literacy and Mathematics Curriculum Maps in Grades PK through Grade 4 that align to the Common Core Curriculum Standards.

The continuation of the Walk to Read framework for reading instruction now includes grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 and we are thrilled with the students' results. Additionally, this year grade 4 switched from six self-contained classrooms into three two-person teams.

Guidance counselors Mrs. Nicole Costello and Mrs. Karyn Savelle taught the Second Step curriculum to students in Grades K – 4. The Second Step curriculum addresses all students' social, emotional and academic learning to create a strong and safe community within the classroom and larger school environment. Implementation of The Second Step Curriculum was made possible through the generosity of the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force. These two guidance counselors also developed and taught a positive bus behavior program to all students on the three R's, Responsible, Respectful, and Ready. Their work was not only presented to our school committee in March, but it was featured in transportation magazine.

The Family Literacy Program at OMP continues to grow thanks in large part to OMP's PTO/PAWS and the continued dedication of Mrs. Lynn Logsdon and Mrs. Mary Beaulieu. The Family Literacy group celebrated National Read Across America in March. Guest Readers were welcomed into the school to celebrate the joy and importance of reading. In the spring of 2015,

OMP was extremely fortunate to have children's author, Jonathon Hall return to visit our library and read to our students. Tornado the Cat accompanied him on his visit.

Last year the Grinspoon Foundation invited the Palmer Public Schools to participate in a very exciting teacher recognition program established by Harold Grinspoon. It is Mr. Grinspoon's desire to honor and celebrate educators for the work they do and to bring to recognition the importance of the teaching profession. We here at Old Mill Pond School recognized Mrs. Catherine Simonoko as this year's recipient. This award was presented to an individual who possesses professionalism through qualities such as excellence in teaching practices; his/her own professional development, good attendance, and their ability to demonstrate collaboration and cooperation.

Special Services

The Department of Special Services includes all special education programs, English as a Second Language Programs, home and hospital tutoring, and McKinney-Vento (homeless). The department is responsible for the screening and evaluation of children between the ages of 3 and 21 for possible special needs.

The Palmer Public Schools are an Early Childhood through Grade 12 School District and is a member of the Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical School District. It offers a full range of special needs programs at all levels beginning with an integrated preschool and continuing services through graduation providing transition planning services for students who do not graduate with a diploma. The department provides an extensive array of supplemental support services including speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral support services and school adjustment counseling. Services for low incidence children are contracted annually as prescribed by the student's Individual Educational Plans.

Our Special Education enrollment is currently 303 students. The school system continues its effort, on the part of each of the schools, to meet children's needs within the classroom. When this is not possible, each school provides a variety of options to meet the needs of students while allowing them to remain in their own community. Programs at each level are available for students with language based learning needs, Autism, intellectual delays, physical handicaps and emotional disabilities. Each school offers life skills curriculums and support for social-emotional development. Social Emotional Behavioral education programs in each building address the needs of students at risk for failure or at risk of dropping out. Special education students have equal access to these programs through the building principals.

State and federal grants written and supervised by the department continue to assist in defraying some of the costs of special education. The Federal Special Education Grant, #240 (94-142), funds the cost of a number of paraprofessional instructional assistant positions at all three schools. The State Early Childhood Grant, 262 and 298, provide Occupational Therapy assistance and screening services to children enrolled in private preschool programs and other early childhood age groups. Grant 274 provides funding for special education improvement through professional development. Grant 632/625 provided funding for the high school to run an

afterschool MCAS prep program and a summer school program for students struggling to pass the ELA, Math and Science High School MCAS.

For the Department of Special Services, the 2014-2015 school year was one of continued program improvement and development. The district completed a self-assessment Civil Rights and Special Education and McKinney-Vento and will complete a full Coordinated Program Review (CPR) during the 2015-2016 school year. This CPR audit reviewed our policies and procedures in the areas of Special Education, Civil Rights, McKinney-Vento and English Learner Education.

Facilities

The Facilities Department oversees the work performance of maintenance and custodial members in the school buildings, school bus transportation services, facility rentals, grounds upkeep and facility maintenance and improvements.

The buildings and grounds are in use virtually 7 days a week and well into the late evening by many civic and private groups in addition to the school programs.

Extensive training with personnel regarding emergency and safety procedures relating to building infrastructure continues to be one of our major focal points.

As always, we cannot express enough how truly grateful we are to the other town departments who continually provide outstanding support, services and expertise.

Special thanks to the Parks and Highway Departments for all they do year round with the grounds. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The district is functioning as a Level 3 School District due to past performance regarding the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). As a Level 3 district, additional grant funding was provided to this district to be used for increased professional development to improved teaching skills and assessment scores. This professional development was intensive during the 2012-2013 school year and will continue throughout the coming school year. Additional information and detailed test scores can be found on the Palmer Public Schools' website by clicking on the Office of the Superintendent link.

The School Department budget continues to be below the required minimum. This does not allow the schools to provide much needed support services for students who are at risk and struggling. Grants continue to provide approximately \$1 million in additional funding, however, due to federal and state cutbacks, grant funds have been reduced as well. Adequate funding is greatly needed to meet the requirements of services to students at risk and to maximize the potential of all achieving students.

The School Committee, administration, faculty, and staff remain committed to the children of the Palmer Public Schools. Every effort has been made to provide our students with a safe, clean

and engaging school environment. We encourage parents, the community and businesses to join us as we serve our community of learners in the coming years.

Respectfully,

Palmer School Committee

Gary Blanchette, Chair
Andrea Mastalerz, Vice Chair
Lisa Murray, Secretary
David M. Lynch, Member
James Lynch, Member

PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee presents this report to the citizens of the District. In the November 2014 state elections, incumbents Michael Cavanaugh (Palmer), Lorraine F. Alves (Belchertown), Julie Quink (Hardwick), M. Barbara Ray (Ware) and William Johnson (Granby) were re-elected. Voters also chose Kathleen Barrett (Monson) and Shane Stafford (New Braintree), replacing Andrew Jaffee and Stacie Pride, respectively, both of whom retired from the committee. Michael Cavanaugh and David Droz, both of Palmer, will continue as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively. Lorraine F. Alves will continue to serve as secretary. Ashley Boudreau is the new student representative.

CURRICULUM

Pathfinder students have continued to work diligently on the MCAS achievement tests. The percentage of Pathfinder students scoring in the advanced and proficient range in all 3 areas is encouraging. The percentage of students scoring in the advanced and proficient range in 2013 in English is 82% which is well above the state average of 69%. Fifty-nine percent of our students scored proficient or higher in Mathematics which falls slightly below the state average of 60%. Students' science scores were above the state average of 55% in 2013, with a combined score of 57% in the advanced and proficient categories. Although students made progress in all of these areas the school was unable to make sufficient improvement in the subgroups, resulting in the school's not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all four student subgroups (Aggregate and Special Populations for both English and Math). The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has designated Pathfinder as a "Level 3" School.

Progress continues to be made to increase the rigor in academic offerings for students. Honors level courses were added in all core academic areas in ninth grade programs. In addition to the honors programs, on-line learning has been introduced to provide additional academic offerings to ensure students' continued academic success.

Progress has been made in vocational programs as well. All fifteen vocational areas have newly adopted the most recent state frameworks. Pathfinder continues to review all areas of curriculum for the staff and to provide professional development opportunities to ensure they remain current in all areas of instruction.

An integral part of the vocational experience is participation in *Skills USA*, a program of student competition at the local, state, and national levels. Pathfinder students experienced extraordinary success, winning 19 gold medals, 16 silver medals, and 8 bronze medals in the western Massachusetts District finals. Gold medalists went on to compete at the state level where they won three gold medals, one silver medal, and one bronze medal. The three gold medalists and their instructors made the trip to Kansas City where the students competed on the national stage.

SELECTED MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Collision Repair Technology:

- Palmer Police Department: Students completed the refinishing of a Military Humvee to traditional black and white police colors. This involved refinishing the metal body and the fabric doors. This was the second Humvee completed for the Town of Palmer.

Machine Technology:

- Students machined several cribbage boards as donations to fundraisers for non-profit organizations. The students also machined several clocks and a war memorial plaque. Recipients included:

Palmer Public Library
Top Floor Learning, Palmer
Machine Technology Poker Run, Pathfinder
Pathfinder Car Show (Skills USA)
Palmer War Memorial (cannon plaque), Palmer

Cosmetology:

- Cosmetology students continued their annual visits to area Senior Centers during which they provide “Spa Days” for seniors. The services they offer include manicures, pedicures, facials, and hair styles. Currently the cosmetology students provide these services in Palmer, Ware, Monson and Belchertown.

Carpentry:

- Work continued on a reception/entrance area for the new Granby Library.
- A sign was created for the Old Brick Schoolhouse in Oakham.

Automotive Reconditioning:

- Auto Reconditioning students provided services for police, highway, fire and water districts.

Electrical:

- Granby Police Department: The Sally Port was completed with power, lighting, security system and fire systems.
- Three Rivers Fire Department: Removed an obsolete siren compressor and relocated a new compressor

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Eleven (11) students participated in the school's Cooperative Education Program which provides opportunities for paid, career-related jobs *in lieu of* attending their vocational classes. In this real work environment, the students enhanced their technical skills, developed interpersonal skills, and experienced valuable lessons in maintaining a balance with their personal lives, school academics, and their jobs. Co-op continues to be an excellent pathway to full-time employment.

Student placement has seen an improvement as the economy slowly recovers. The school is committed to providing students with this invaluable opportunity and intends to work closely with area businesses to expand the program.

STUDENT BODY

Pathfinder's enrollment as of October 1, 2014 totaled 620 students, including the following numbers from member towns: Belchertown 89; Granby 17; Hardwick 25; Monson 108; New Braintree 11; Oakham 14; Palmer 160; Ware 107; and Warren 44. The remaining students were residents of out-of-district communities, the largest number of students coming from Ludlow (21). The 620 figure on October 1st represents an increase of 8 students overall from the number reported on October 1, 2013.

In order to better meet students' needs and to more effectively accommodate parents, the Special Education and Guidance Department have been combined under a Pupil Personnel Director.

The Pupil Services Office—which also serves as the Admissions Office—once again received far more applications for the 180 ninth grade openings than the school could accommodate. Transfer opportunities into the 10th or 11th grades were also very limited. Consequently, the school experienced another year of waiting lists for each grade.

Parents of students seeking to learn more about Pathfinder or to visit the school had a variety of options available to them throughout the year. In early October guidance counselors were invited to attend a breakfast meeting designed specifically to update them about the admissions

policies and procedures. In October and November, Pathfinder's guidance counselors visited the 8th graders in member towns to provide an in-depth presentation about Pathfinder's offerings and the application process. In late November, an evening Open House event was held for 5th-8th graders and their parents. The event featured a free dinner and a tour of the facility, including a visit to technical areas of interest.

In addition to the fall events, each winter 8th graders who are interested are invited to participate in a field trip with their school counselor to visit Pathfinder and get a first-hand look at technical programs, facilities, and to interact with current students. This visit is a great opportunity for the students to experience a typical day at Pathfinder. This year a larger number of students participated in these tours than the previous year. Many attendees acknowledged that they had participated in the summer Youth Enrichment Program, an attractive opportunity for large numbers of enthusiastic prospective students. For students and parents with Internet access, a copy of the application can be downloaded and printed.

The Pathfinder Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society inducted a deserving group of new and existing members in an impressive ceremony. To qualify, students must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or above and exhibit the qualities of skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership. The induction ceremony is held in early spring so that senior inductees can include this recognition on college, scholarship, and work applications. The Chapter continued the practice of inviting as guests underclass students who had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and who demonstrated potential for induction into the Society.

At the twenty-eighth Annual "Outstanding Vocational-Technical Student" awards dinner sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and the Massachusetts Vocational Association (MVA) the Alexandria Avery, daughter of Darlene and Wayne Avery of Belchertown was Pathfinder's honoree. Alexandria is an exceptional student in the Cosmetology program. She is a remarkable young woman with an unwavering work ethic. Alexandria is the top student in her class and has earned a cumulative G.P.A of 4.29. She has received a myriad of academic and technical awards for excellence and outstanding achievement throughout her high school career. She is a two-year member of the National Technical Honor Society, and particularly excels in and enjoys math and English, earning a 99 in Honors Statistics and a 95 in Honors English for the first grading term of her senior year. Outside of the classroom, Alexandria holds the position of Class Secretary, and balances her after school hours giving her time to the peer tutoring program, leading the Pathfinder Cheerleading Team as their Captain and managing the Pathfinder Baseball Team on top of putting in many hours a week working a part time job. Alexandria plans to open her own salon, and will be furthering her education after Pathfinder at Rob Roy Academy, followed by majoring in entrepreneurship at Holyoke Community College.

In June 2014, the graduating class of 140 students received diplomas and technical certificates at commencement exercises. Graduates received 66 awards totaling \$24,800 during the ceremony. Once again, state and local organizations and businesses, post-secondary institutions, as well as private individuals, continued to recognize the ability and potential of Pathfinder graduates in the form of generous donations. The school committee, administration-- and particularly the

graduates-- are grateful for this support and are especially proud of the number of awards that have been made to honor the memory of former Pathfinder students and staff members.

PUPIL SERVICES

Nicole Heroux serves as the Director of Pupil Services. Pupil Services is comprised of both the Special Education and Guidance Departments. The school committee approved this position on a trial bases and agreed to continue to support the change.

Mrs. Heroux and her staff are currently in the process of evaluating all current programs and services in preparation for a Coordinated Review that will occur in April of 2015. In this visit, state officials will review Special Education, English Language Learners, and Civil Rights. The goal of Pupil Services is to demonstrate its responsibility to provide a continuum of services for all students in accordance with the provisions of state and federal regulations. The Department continues to be committed to finding opportunities to offer different pathways to learning so that the diverse ability levels of the students might be accommodated. The guidance staff is working on revising our College and Career readiness for our students' best interests when it comes to their emotional and educational well-being.

The Special Education Department strives to address the needs of *all* learners in grades 9-12. Through continued integrated efforts with students, parents, and other student support services, the Department focuses on promoting each student's self-awareness, ability to self-advocate, and sense of self sufficiency. All students admitted to Pathfinder are expected to fulfill the same requirements to receive a high school diploma as in local town high schools, and all students must have access to all academic and vocational programs. The staff at Pathfinder continues to work to develop an appropriate education for the students who were previously in the MVIP program to insure their success at the school.

Team chairpersons conducted Team evaluations, annual reviews and re-evaluations for over one sixty five (165) special needs students. The Pupil Services Department continued to be responsible for approximately fifty (50) students who have 504 Accommodation Plans. Section 504 is a federal civil rights law which requires the provision of reasonable accommodations to students and staff who qualify as disabled under the law.

The Department includes fifteen (15) academic professionally licensed instructors, 3 guidance counselors, eight (8) paraprofessionals, and three full-time secretaries. Licensed specialists include a Speech and Language Pathologist, a School Adjustment Counselor, and a full-time School Psychologist.

Work continued on the collaboration between special and general educators.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Plans for the New York trip started as early as November last year for a trip that Pathfinder had never tried to accomplish in the past. Students worked together to plan the trip themselves by finding out school rules pertaining to field trips, getting estimates for things like buses and theater tickets, and also making a plan for this enormous undertaking of a day trip. Students had to raise the \$2,000 that the trip cost themselves by having multiple dances, participating in a staff supported senior initiative, and making a donors choose website. Students also took the initiative to do some public speaking in front of the Pathfinder School Committee to explain their motives for planning this trip and get a vote on approval to travel out of state. In April, the students enjoyed the sights and sounds of New York City by starting of their day in Rockefeller Center, going shopping to some of New York's famous stores such as Toys R' Us with the giant Ferris wheel and the NBC store, took in a performance of the 10th anniversary of *Wicked*, and then had dinner at the famous Bill's Burgers in Rockefeller Center. This year the trip is in progress to return to New York in the spring with 20 more students to see the Broadway Musical *Aladdin*. Fundraising for the trip is currently in progress.

This year 22 students participated in the FFA State Convention held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. They participated in Floriculture, Team and Single Demonstrations, Job Interview and Science Project. They also competed in Safe Equipment/Tractor Operation, Forestry, and Turf Management, and Arbor skills throughout the school year. First place was won in the Science Project and Team Demonstration and third place was won in Forestry. There were approximately 12-15 schools attending the convention. Attendance at this event was supported by Yankee Candle Sales, Little Caesar's Pizza Kit sales, and the cordwood raffle. Other Career Development Events were held at Vocational High Schools throughout Massachusetts. Pathfinder boasts 100% FFA membership, including students in all four grades. Students are currently contemplating attending the National Convention this year.

Under the direction of artist in residence Denise Fontaine-Pincince, and English teacher Catherine Yurkunas, the sophomore class at Pathfinder experienced *Art with Poetry* throughout the month of February. Funded by the Pathfinder Regional High School and Palmer Cultural Council, the project was displayed in March at the Palmer Public Library and later came to Pathfinder in April. It also drew the attention of the *Palmer Journal Register*, sparking articles with pictures of the creations by students.

Food For Thought was a presentation by the Health Shop Seniors containing topics that ranged from the six basic nutrients to healthy versus unhealthy choices and how to read and understand food labels. All of the research and organization was completed by the Health Shop Seniors. The students had hopes that this presentation would be beneficial and interesting for all and might eventually help some people make better dietary choices. Many students and staff attended the presentation as well as *News 40*.

The first of three blood drives was held in October; 47 donors registered. After deferrals, 7 units of red cells and 35 pints of whole blood were donated for a grand total of 42 pints of blood. Since each pint of blood may help save the lives of up to 3 people, potentially 126 patients were helped!

The school's first annual Craft Fair was held last year. It featured over 35 vendors and various forms of crafts from the surrounding local area, filling not only the gym but the cafeteria as well. This year the Junior Class has taken on the task of sponsoring this much anticipated event with their advisors Mrs. Rugg and Mr. Robertson

The Breakfast with Santa was held on December 14th, 2014. Children were able to meet with Santa and tell him their wishes as well as enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast served up by students, staff, and administration.

The Student Council ran a very successful Thanksgiving food drive this year. The donations were as follows: 43 Turkeys and 1822 boxed/canned goods.

ATHLETICS

Participation numbers remained consistent with approximately 185 students taking part in our athletic programs. The co-op programs in wrestling and swimming with Ware and Palmer High Schools continued. Of note was the large increase in freshmen participation in football and cheerleading.

In 2014 the varsity girls' soccer, basketball, and softball teams qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament. The varsity softball team won the Tri-County League title. The varsity girls' basketball team were co-champions of the Tri-County North League. The varsity softball team won the State Vocational Championship and finished as runners up in the D-3 Western Mass Tournament.

The boys' varsity baseball team won the State Vocational Championship and qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament.

Mike Krzynowek and Jenna Maska were named the outstanding male and female athletes for 2014.

GRANTS, DONATIONS AND CONTRACTS

Program Name	Amount	Application
Title 1	\$122,982	Retain HQ Title 1 ELA instructor; purchase 2 Smart Boards
Title 2	\$21,684	Retaining HQ students professional development; Math CVTE Trainings; Partial SPED teacher salary.
CIC Grant	\$13,604	<i>Navigate</i> Cloud Based Security System; "Tough" Books for Fire, Police

Parent and student satisfaction with the Youth Enrichment Programs has been extraordinary. Many students return to the program several times and express regret when they become too old to participate. It serves as an excellent introduction to Pathfinder and its environment.

Pathfinder offered an online summer school program designed to enable students to make up information missed during the school year and earn credit needed for their promotion or graduation. The academic summer school program was offered during the month of July for four weeks, it had to be extended to five weeks due to students not completing their assignments on time. The vocational related courses ran in August, Monday through Friday with two morning sessions, each two hours long. A total of 40 hours in attendance was required for completing the program. Seventy-six students enrolled in academics, and four in vocational course work. A combined summer school course enrollment was seventy-nine from sixteen school districts.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Currently the Pathfinder staff consists of 43 vocational teachers, 26.5 academic teachers, 1 part-time Athletic Trainer, 9 special education teachers, 3 counselors, a psychologist, a library-media specialist, a speech & language pathologist, a behavioral specialist, and 9 paraprofessionals. The school is managed by a group of 8 professional administrators as well as a full-time grants coordinator.

In June, the school said farewell to retirees Alex Monte and Anne Milkowski and in November, to Judith Mercier and Jayne Lane.

New Hires included Susan Lynch (Reading), Cody Hancock (Social Studies Inclusion), Cynthia Rubin (Cosmetology), Lisa Fuller (Speech & Language Pathologist). Justin Senecal (Physical Education) joined the staff in November, and Yvonne Jianaces (Paraprofessional) in December.

Internal staff promotions included Timothy Moriarty as Academic Director, Eric Duda as Vocational Director and Valerie Kowalik as Receptionist.

Dr. Paist continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and on the Board of Directors of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. An active member of the Assn. for Career & Technical Education, he is one of two Region I Directors for that organization's National Council of Local Administrators

BUDGET AND FINANCE

The school committee adopted a FY15 budget of \$13,151,619, representing a 0.34% decrease over FY14. For the two previous fiscal years of FY13 and FY14, Pathfinder had budget increases of 2.61% and 2.97% respectively. All nine District member communities subsequently approved their assessments in the spring of 2014. Consequently, the FY15 budget was approved pursuant to the regional school budget statute.

While the Regional School Transportation Reimbursement Rate is historically unpredictable, the last five years of reimbursements have been in the range of 55% - 65%. Included in the FY15 approved State Budget, the Transportation Reimbursement Rate was increased to 90 % which would have begun to offset years of stagnant Local Aid contributions. Unfortunately, Governor Patrick invoked “9C” budget cuts in FY15 that reduced the Transportation Reimbursement Rate to past levels. Therefore, Pathfinder anticipates an FY16 Transportation Reimbursement Rate in the 55%-65% range once again.

Historically, Pathfinder has generated substantial annual revenue from the enrollment of out of non-resident tuition students (once all eligible member town applicants have been accepted). These revenues have been used to subsidize the annual operating budgets and reduce member community assessments. Since FY11, non-resident student enrollments have dropped, leading to decreased annual revenues. In FY11, non-resident tuition accounted for nearly \$900,000.00 in annual revenue. In the current FY15 school year, non-resident tuition will account for approximately \$475,000.00 in revenue. In an effort to limit the impact of the decrease in this revenue source, Pathfinder (over the last few years) has reduced staff, combined multiple positions into one, renegotiated health insurance benefits in addition to implementing many other cost saving measures.

As in past years, Chapter 70 Aid from the Commonwealth continues to be a concern for the upcoming FY16 school year. In FY14, Pathfinder’s enrollment decreased by nearly 45 students to approximately 570 students. During the current fiscal year, Pathfinder’s total enrollment has increased back to previous levels of approximately 615 students. Therefore, we expect Chapter 70 School Aid to be relatively unchanged in FY16.

In conclusion, when we combine the cuts in and unpredictability of of Regional Transportation Aid and Chapter 70 Aid with decreases in non-resident tuition revenue, Pathfinder’s budgetary future will be challenging. With this in mind, Pathfinder is committed to continuously reviewing operations and procedures to gain efficiencies and reduce costs. It has been, and will continue to be, Pathfinder’s goal to provide a challenging and rigorous academic and technical educational experience to all students in an effort to ensure that they are prepared for the 21st century economy.

The following chart illustrates the FY15 assessments (voted in spring of FY14) to each member community:

ASSESSMENT CALCULATION FY2015:							
	MINIMUM	ADDITIONAL	SHARE OF	3rd YR OF	TRANS-	RETIREE	
TOWNS	CONT.	CONT.	REGULAR CAP.	5 YR CAP PLAN	PORTATION	HEALTH INSURANCE	TOTAL ASSESSMENT
Belchertown	\$ 707,249	\$ 273,788	\$ 5,733	\$ 21,788	\$ 55,493	\$ 52,581	\$ 1,116,631
Granby	\$ 227,902	\$ 74,151	\$ 1,553	\$ 8,864	\$ 15,029	\$ 14,241	\$ 341,739
Hardwick	\$ 145,699	\$ 68,447	\$ 1,433	\$ 3,409	\$ 13,873	\$ 13,145	\$ 246,006
Monson	\$ 629,723	\$ 236,712	\$ 4,957	\$ 11,026	\$ 47,978	\$ 45,460	\$ 975,856
New Braintree	\$ 105,592	\$ 34,223	\$ 717	\$ 1,254	\$ 6,937	\$ 6,573	\$ 155,296
Oakham	\$ 82,056	\$ 28,520	\$ 597	\$ 2,418	\$ 5,780	\$ 5,477	\$ 124,848
Palmer	\$ 1,143,001	\$ 479,128	\$ 10,033	\$ 14,228	\$ 97,112	\$ 92,016	\$ 1,835,518
Ware	\$ 607,560	\$ 288,047	\$ 6,031	\$ 13,007	\$ 58,383	\$ 55,319	\$ 1,028,348
Warren	\$ 220,491	\$ 131,190	\$ 2,747	\$ 6,999	\$ 26,590	\$ 25,195	\$ 413,212
TOTALS:	\$ 3,869,273	\$ 1,614,206	\$ 33,800	\$ 82,993	\$ 327,176	\$ 310,006	\$ 6,237,454

(Please see the following page for further information on the FY2015 Assessments which were subsequently reduced during Pathfinder's Annual Excess and Deficiency Certification (E/D) per Massachusetts Department of Revenue Regulations)

The following chart illustrates the Recalculated FY15 assessments for each member community:

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16B1/2, the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District had its Excess and Deficiency (E&D) certified as of July 1, 2014 in the amount of \$688,459.00. As this figure exceeds 5% of the operating budget and capital costs for the succeeding fiscal year (FY15), the excess of \$67,378 must be returned to the district's member communities. Therefore, each of the district's member communities had its assessment recalculated (reduced) as outlined below based upon each member community's 10/01/2013 enrollment figures per the Regional Agreement:

<u>FY15 Modified Assessment Due to Excess and Deficiency Surplus / Refund:</u>					
PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT					
FY15 Total Assessments after Excess and Deficiency Refund of :			\$67,378		
Apportionment Basis Per Regional Agreement:	TOTAL	BELCHERTOWN	GRANBY	HARDWICK	MONSON
FY15 Originally Approved Total Assessment:	\$ 6,237,454.00	\$1,116,631.00	\$ 341,739.00	\$ 246,006.00	\$975,856.00
Total Assessment Reduction dt E/D Surplus:	\$ 67,378.00	\$ 12,039.68	\$ 2,098.66	\$ 3,534.58	\$ 10,714.21
FY15 Amended Total Assessment dt E/D Surplus:	\$ 6,170,076.00	\$1,104,591.32	\$ 339,640.34	\$ 242,471.42	\$965,141.79
PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT					
FY15 Total Assessments after Excess and Deficiency Refund of :					
Apportionment Basis Per Regional Agreement:	NEW BRAINTREE	OAKHAM	PALMER	WARE	WARREN
FY15 Originally Approved Total Assessment:	\$ 155,296.00	\$ 124,848.00	\$ 1,835,518.00	\$ 1,028,348.00	\$413,212.00
Total Assessment Reduction dt E/D Surplus:	\$ 1,215.01	\$ 1,104.56	\$ 20,213.40	\$ 10,382.84	\$ 6,075.07
FY15 Amended Total Assessment dt E/D Surplus:	\$ 154,080.99	\$ 123,743.44	\$ 1,815,304.60	\$ 1,017,965.16	\$407,136.93

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

As Pathfinder enters its forty-second year offering quality vocational education to our member communities, the school committee wishes to reaffirm its pride in the staff and students. They have made substantial contributions to the economic health of our District. The committee recognizes that, in this era of accountability and high expectations, many changes need to be made. The increased emphasis on academic skills needs to be maintained without diminishing the quality of students' technical studies.

Finally, the committee wishes to thank our legislators, town officials and the several town meetings for their support over these years. The committee especially thanks retiring Senator Stephen Brewer for his unwavering assistance to education and his friendship to Pathfinder.

The committee is mindful of the prediction that FY16 fiscal picture will undoubtedly present another challenge. However—as always-- the goal will be to preserve the quality of education that the students deserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Palmer), Chairman
David Droz (Palmer), Vice Chairman
Lorraine F. Alves (Belchertown), Secretary
Francesco Dell'Olio (Belchertown)
William E. Johnson (Granby)
Julie Quink (Hardwick)
Kathleen Barrett (Monson)
Shane Stafford (New Braintree)
Jeffrey Nelson (Oakham)
M. Barbara Ray (Ware)
Thomas Rugani (Warren)
Ashley Boudreau (Student Representative)

Gerald L. Paist, Superintendent-Director

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE EMERGENCY - 911

For Questions Regarding:

Call this Department:

Phone:

Appeals (zoning issues)	Appeals, Board of	283-2605
Assessments, Abatements	Assessors, Board of	283-2607
Building Permits, Electric Permits, Plumbing, gas & wiring Permits, Zoning Enforcement	Building Inspector	283-2638
Burial Records, Cemetery Plots	Cemetery	283-2665
Emergency Preparedness, Catastrophe	Police	283-8792
Future planning for Palmer	Community Development Dept.	283-2614
Wetlands Management	Conservation Commission	283-2611
Senior activities, Information & Transportation	Council on Aging	283-2670
Animal Control	Dog Officer	283-7770
Health, Sanitation, Septic Permits/Title V, Food & Beverage License & Tobacco License	Health, Board Of	283-2606
Road Maintenance, snow & ice removal	Department of Public Works	283-2615
Federally funded elderly housing	Palmer Housing Authority	283-9311
All library services	Palmer Public Library	283-3330
Park & Field Maintenance	Department of Public Works	283-2615
Planning, Land Use, Zoning	Planning Board	283-2605
Public Schools	Schools:	
	Converse Middle School	283-2641
	Old Mill Pond Elementary	283-2630
	Palmer High School	283-2621
	Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School	283-9701
	Superintendent of Schools	283-2650
Scale, weight Certification	Sealer of Weights & Measures (Residence)	283-4070
Committee Appointments, Class I, II & III Licenses, Amusement/Entertainment Licenses, Street Entrance, Street Excavation	Town Manager	283-2603
Parking Tickets, Property & Excise Tax Bills	Tax Collector	283-2601
General Accounting	Town Accountant	283-2602
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Dog Licenses, Business Certificates, Elections & Voter Registration	Town Clerk	283-2608
Bill Payment, Payroll, Insurance Benefits	Town Treasurer	283-2600
Veteran's Information/Referrals Benefits	Veteran's Agent	283-2610
EMERGENCY NUMBERS - 911	Fire – Bondsville	283-9036
	Palmer	283-3861
	Three Rivers	283-7161